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## Cellcom to fund health study of cell phones

By JUDY SIEGEL

Cellcom has acceded to *The Jerusalem Post's* proposal that the telecommunications company establish a joint research fund with Pelephone and cellular phone importers that would study the possible detrimental effects of mobile phones on health.

If carried out, it reportedly would be the first research project in Israel financed by non-medical companies on the effects of their products on health.

Senior Cellcom executives, who last night convened for an international board meeting, left the session specially to discuss the issue, which was raised by *The Post* in an

article last Friday. *The Post* reported on what experts have described as the "first serious study" to link a significantly increased risk of cancer in mice to exposure to the electromagnetic radiation of cell phones.

The lab study, conducted at Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia, found that mice exposed to cell phone radiation over a period of 18 months had more than twice the incidence of lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system) than those that had not been exposed. Until now, numerous foreign studies failed to prove such a link.

Israel is regarded as a natural place for such research, not only because of the very high level of its scientific achievement, but

### Action taken after 'Post' report

also because Israelis spend more minutes on cellular phones per month than people in any other country.

Prof. John Goldsmith, a senior epidemiologist at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev who specializes in radiation, said the Australian study was "very startling new evidence that must be carefully evaluated."

Cellcom spokesman Ilan Bachar last night issued the statement by management, after being informed that Health Minister Yehoshua Matza had agreed to ask Pelephone and Cellcom to finance such

local research, and that Communications Minister Limor Livnat "heartily endorsed" the establishment of such a joint fund. Livnat has ministerial responsibility for the cellular phone companies.

"Cellcom accepts the proposal for research into the subject, and will in the coming days contact Pelephone, as well as the two importers that supply Cellcom with its peripheral equipment, Nokia and Ericsson, so they too can participate. Cellcom would like a joint team to prepare an agreement on the scope of the scientific

research and the financing," Bachar announced.

The Cellcom spokesman added that all the cellular phones imported by Cellcom for use in Israel have "met the highest safety standards of Europe and the US, and numerous scientific studies conducted there have shown that their use is completely safe."

A few months ago, in an analysis of studies conducted up to now, the US Food and Drug Administration stated it had "no proof" that cellular phones harm health.

The Australian study, conducted on 200 mice, was led by Dr. Michael Repacholi, and published in *Radiation Research*, volume 147. The Australian authors claim their arti-

cle was turned down by the prestigious journal *Science* on the grounds that publication would cause panic, and by *Nature* because "it could not handle such important conclusions without the research being confirmed by further studies."

Dr. Avi Livnat, head of the ministry's medical device unit, stated that "the subject is important," especially since many children also use cellular phones, thus making long-term exposure a factor.

Pelephone spokeswoman Ayelet Gradman said: "We have not been contacted by either the minister or anyone else about such an initiative; if we are, we will study the matter and comment on it."



Moledet MK Benny Elon points yesterday to the eastern Jerusalem house recently acquired for use by his Beit Orot Yeshiva. (Reuters)

## Beit Orot yeshiva gets villa in eastern Jerusalem as a gift

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A villa in an Arab neighborhood of eastern Jerusalem has been bought by an American millionaire and given to the Beit Orot Yeshiva, it was revealed yesterday, only days after the Palestinian Authority warned that anyone selling land to Jews would be sentenced to death.

The villa, situated on a four-dunam plot between Mt. Scopus and the Mount of Olives in the Arab neighborhood of A-Tur, was reportedly sold for NIS 10 million by its owner Armenian Archbishop Shahe Ajamian to Irving Moskowitz, who handed it over to the yeshiva.

Ajamian has reportedly left the country.

Moskowitz is said to have financed archeological excavations near the Western Wall and purchased land in the Arab neighborhood of Ras el-Amud in Jerusalem.

Yesterday morning, yeshiva students started refurbishing the villa, which they are to move into on Independence Day. Steps were constructed connecting the building to Beit Orot.

Arabs, who noticed the work being carried out, reported it to the Palestinian Authority. Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, called the incident extremely serious.

MK Benny Elon (Moledet), director of Beit Orot, said he couldn't understand what all the fuss was about.

"We are on good terms with all our neighbors," he said.

Regarding Tibi's remarks, Elon said, "So what if the Palestinians are angry?"

Beit Orot, a hesder-dunam plot, was

### Villa's Armenian seller has colorful past

Members of Jerusalem's Armenian community yesterday speculated that Archbishop Shahe Ajamian, one of their most colorful and controversial clerics, must have closed the deal to sell his house on the Mount of Olives to the Beit Orot Yeshiva in January, when he spent two weeks in Jerusalem.

Considered by many to be the most brilliant member of the Armenian religious brotherhood and for many years chancellor of the Armenian Patriarchate, Ajamian left from Greece in 1982 as a result of a rift with the then-patriarch, the late Yeshighe Denderian. A friend of such figures as former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek and former Interior Ministry Jerusalem district representative Rafi Levy, the Armenian churchman suffered a further reversal of fortune when he was jailed for three weeks in connection with Levy's incarceration on corruption charges.

However, despite these setbacks, Ajamian not only enjoyed the backing of the world head of his church in Armenia, he also had considerable personal wealth, the result of real estate deals and the sale of parts of his extensive Russian glass, Byzantine ceramics and oriental carpet collections.

For the past few years Ajamian, 75, has been living in the Armenian Republic, where he teaches religion. People in the community said that now that he has sold his house, it is doubtful that he will return to Jerusalem, especially in view of the intense anger that the sale engendered in Palestinian circles.

*Haim Shapiro*

### Settlers' council assists Yitzhar residents, Page 3

## 'No progress' in Ross talks

### Ayalon to meet PA security heads

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and JON IMMANUEL

US peace envoy Dennis Ross appeared to make little progress in his efforts to renew the peace process yesterday, but the heads of the General Security Service and the Palestinians' security services are expected to resume contact today.

A meeting that had been scheduled for yesterday between GSS head Ami Ayalon and Palestinian security services heads Mohammed Dahlan and Jibril Rajoub was postponed to today.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that the meeting of the security heads will be a test as to whether there will be full cooperation between the two sides.

Last night Gaza Preventive Security chief Dahlan met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. The Palestinians said that a third party, the US, would be present at any security meetings with Israel.

Ross spent yesterday morning meeting Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman and Foreign Minister David Levy. Weizman recounted his impressions of his meeting with Arafat the previous



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sits down for a meeting with US peace process envoy Dennis Ross (center) and Foreign Minister David Levy in Jerusalem yesterday. (Reuters)

day, noting that he had promised large-scale building for Arabs in Jerusalem, but did not have the authority to agree to the Palestinians' demands.

Then Ross met Netanyahu, who spoke mainly of Israel's security demands. He told Ross that Israel is not getting real-time intelligence about Palestinian terrorist activity and that the PA has not proved its determination to fight terrorism.

Ross then met with Arafat and passed on Israel's message that the building in Har Homa and the settlements will not stop. The PA chairman reiterated that there must be a halt to settlements before peace talks can resume.

The meeting was described by diplomatic sources as "unsuccessful."

"We're looking at all matters to see what can be done, to find ways to restore confidence, which is really crucial if we're going to be able to [put] the peace process back on track," Ross said, after the meeting.

Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani clarified that "settlements about Palestinian terrorist project."

"All settlements including Jebel Abu Ghmeim [Har Homa], must stop. Dennis Ross should understand that nothing will move if settlements do not stop," Kanafani said.

The Palestinians made clear that they are not willing to accept the Har Homa project in return for some other concession.

*Continued on Page 6*

## Most Israelis fly the flag

A large majority of Israelis hang the national flag from their homes or cars on Independence Day, according to a Gallup survey conducted for Army Radio.

### Remembrance Day to mark death of 18,538, Page 18

Seventy-two percent display the flag outside their homes, while 62% put flags on their cars.

Of those who hang flags from their homes, there was no significant difference in the percentage between those who supported Binyamin Netanyahu and those who supported Shimon Peres in the last elections. However, a clear majority of car-flags

voted Likud in 1996.

The survey also found that haredim do not buy flags, older people are more likely to fly flags than younger ones, and the most popular area in Israel for flags is the North, especially around Haifa.

The telephone survey of 503 adults above the age of 18 representing all sectors of the population (including the Arab sector) had a 4.4% margin of error.

Since Independence Day 1996, the population has grown 2.6 percent, to 5.8 million. Some 68,000 of the state's 148,000 new residents are new immigrants.

Bnei Akiva members plan to distribute 20,000 memorial candles at military cemeteries around the country for Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars, which begins Saturday night.

A one-minute siren is to sound at 10 p.m. on Saturday, followed by municipal memorial ceremonies.

On Sunday, there will be memorial ceremonies at military cemeteries after a two-minute siren goes off at 11 a.m. Egged, Magen David Adom and security forces have made special arrangements to accommodate the crowds expected at the ceremonies.

Independence Day celebrations begin Sunday night.

*Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim*

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COMMENT

# Yitzhar - Netanyahu's lose-lose gambit

By HERB KEINON

Just days after three illegally built structures were demolished outside of Yitzhar and dozens of people evicted from the site, the residents continued to rebuild the structures - under the watchful eye of the police and IDF.

That the security forces, who tore down the structures on Tuesday, were watching them go back up on Wednesday and Thursday, forces the basic question: What is going on? Why go through the trouble of bloodying noses, destroying buildings and providing the people of Israel with traumatic pictures of Jews evicting Jews, only then to turn around the next day and let other structures go up at the same site?

The seemingly obvious explanation for the order to demolish the structures is that it was an attempt to show a visiting Dennis Ross that Israel is intent on keeping the settlers in line, and that despite the government's lukewarm attitude toward the Oslo process, it is intent on keeping the settlers from staking a claim to more and more hill-tops.

This explanation is just an extension of a similar theory: that the Yitzhar incident was timed to coincide with the Weizman-Arafat meeting at Erez earlier this week. According to this reasoning, the structures were destroyed as a type of "confidence building" measure toward the Palestinians.

The concern among settlement officials is that destruction of the structures heralds a new government policy of removing similar structures at other settlements created under the previous government. These structures, which settlement officials say number in the "dozens," were erected with the wink of an eye but without formal government approval in order to keep the Palestinians from encroaching on state land.

Had the demolition at Yitzhar heralded a new government policy to begin removing these structures, then it would have made no sense for the security forces to turn a blind eye a couple of days later as they were being rebuilt. Does anybody really think that Ross, the US special envoy, or Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat are that stupid?

Another explanation for the whole episode is that the removal of these homes, coupled with the removal of two mobile homes set up illegally in Mitzpeh Yericho five days earlier, was designed to show the highly ideological settlers who populate both settlements that the



Policemen struggle with a Yitzhar resident on Tuesday, when illegally built structures there were demolished. (AP)

government is intent on setting firm boundaries to their communities, and that it is not going to let the decision on where and when to build be made by the settlers themselves, as happened during the Begin years.

The problem with this explanation is that the structures at Yitzhar have been there for at least two years, and are not - as could be argued at Mitzpeh Yericho - an attempt to lay claim to new land now.

Another reason bandied about for the Yitzhar operation, at least in settlement circles, is that OC Central Command Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan simply wanted to "get back" at the settlement. This is not the first time that the IDF and police have gone into Yitzhar,

either to look for alleged trouble-makers or to stop illegal building. The last time was April 1996, when six mobile homes were removed.

According to this reasoning, Dayan gave the order to remove the structures as a way to settle accounts with the settlement - a far-fetched idea that a commander of Dayan's stature would embark on this type of personal vendetta.

Which leaves one other explanation - the *shleimelot* (dolt) factor. According to this theory, the whole Yitzhar operation was - like the Roni Bar-On appointment - simply another example of a government policy that is taken without considering all the ramifications.

For months, settlement leaders

have complained that when it comes to settlement policy, Netanyahu is ensuring the worst of all worlds. On the one hand, he makes grandiose proclamations about the rights of the Jews to Eretz Yisrael, and says he will build in the territories, thereby attracting fire from the entire world. Yet, on the ground, he does little.

In the Yitzhar case, to use the same analogy, he goes ahead and destroys the structures, bringing about the wrath of the settlers and the right-wing of his coalition, and in the end watches as the structures are rebuilt, thereby enraging the Palestinians and the left. Nothing is gained, and he is criticized on all sides.

# Yitzhar residents rebuild six homes

## Yesha: We will not tolerate further destruction

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Yitzhar settlers worked ferociously throughout the day yesterday to build houses on a nearby hill-top, where three homes were destroyed under military order two days earlier.

By nightfall the settlement's secretary Yehuda Liebman said six houses had been erected and families were moving in.

Earlier in the day, IDF troops visited the hilltop and reported details of the work being carried out to their superiors.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza sent supplies to Yitzhar on Wednesday night and yesterday morning to help the settlers rebuild.

"We will not tolerate further destruction of Jewish homes," said council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar.

Later, the council met with Yitzhar settlers to determine what strategy should be taken in their struggle to remain on the hilltop.

After the meeting, Liebman said they expected around 300 settlers and others who support their effort to spend Shabbat on the hilltop. In addition, he said they are planning to celebrate Independence Day at the site and expect a large show of people, including members of the Land of Israel Front Knesset caucus and other public figures.

"We will continue to build wooden houses on the hilltop, and fill them with families from the settlement," he said.

Meanwhile, council members sought to arrange an emergency meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to discuss the situation in Yitzhar and clarify what policies and plans the ministry has for the future regarding the settlements.

In addition, Tayar said it was also an opportunity to improve relations. Mordechai's media coordinator Avi Benayahu said the minister would meet with the settlement council leaders next week.

Regarding the rebuilding on the hilltop in Yitzhar and whether the ministry planned to demolish the houses, Benayahu said he would not divulge any future plans or steps the ministry may take.

"We expect the present government we all worked so hard to have elected will realize that there is no compromise on the matter," said Tayar.

As council leaders met in Yitzhar, a force of 60 to 70 policemen arrived at Mitzpeh Yericho and began taking photos and walking around the settlement. Their arrival caused concern, as residents feared they planned to remove more caravans.

A week ago, a force of 180 policemen carried out a surprise raid and removed two caravans situated on a hilltop in the 180-family settlement.

When confronted by settlers, some of the policemen told them - "It's a shame we can't evacuate you as well," according to resident Eli Neiman.

The settlers demanded that the police leave immediately, and accompanied them out of the settlement.

Mitzpeh Yericho secretary Sarah Sarel said the policemen took photos of some 20 caravans set up in the new neighborhood that houses young married couples.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan refused to comment or explain why the police were there.

"We don't have to give details of everything we do," he said.

Meanwhile, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid demanded that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai forbid any illegal building on the hilltop in Yitzhar.

"If the government is unable to prevent these lawbreakers, then they are in effect partners in crime," he said.



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On Sunday, May 11, sirens for a minute's silence will sound at 11 a.m., at which time, national memorial ceremonies will be held at military cemeteries, and services will take place in cemeteries where the fallen are buried.

Persons bearing weapons, including soldiers, will not be allowed into the cemeteries.

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- Kiryat Shaul:** Special line 127, from the new Central Bus Station (4th floor near line 5) via Derech Patah Tikva and Derech Nativ, Central Railway Station, to the cemetery, from 6:30; and return after the ceremony to Tel Aviv, Patah Tikva, Holon, Bat Yam, Rishon LeZion, Herzliya, Ra'anana and Ramat Hasharon. Egged - from Herzliya and Tel Aviv: 521, 524, 531, 535. From Kfar Sava: 575.
- Nahalat Yitzhak:** Buses will be added to Lines 63 and 53 from Tel Aviv - Ramat Gan, from 7:30.
- Holon:** Buses will be added to Lines 40 and 42 from Ramat Gan, Line 46 from the new Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv, Line 2 from north Tel Aviv, Line 8 (Reading Station), Line 18 from the Central Railway Station Arlosoroff depot via the Law Court, central Tel Aviv.
- Patah Tikva:** Buses will be added to Line 49 to Kiryat Shaul. Buses will be added to Line 8 on its route from the Patah Tikva Central Bus Station. Buses will be added to Line 82 from Bnei Brak to the Segula Cemetery.
- Haifa:** Buses will be added to Lines 43, 44, and 45. After the ceremony there will be express and regular buses to Tel Aviv. Transportation will be available to the public from the parking lots, and from the Exhibition Center (Freud Junction), to the Military Cemetery in Haifa and back after the ceremony.
- Jerusalem:** There will be more buses on all city routes that go to Mt. Herzl.
- Kiryat Anavim:** From the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station at 8:30. There will be more buses on Line 187 from Jerusalem.
- Nahariya:** From the special departure platform at the Central Bus Station to the local cemetery, at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30; and return after the ceremony.
- Acre:** From the Central Bus Station to the Nahariya Military Cemetery at 9:00, and return after the ceremony.
- Afula:** From special departure platform at the Central Bus Station to the local cemetery, at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00; and return after the ceremony.
- Kfar Warburg:** From the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, special departure platform, at 8:30.
- Rosh Pina:** From Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, at 6:45. From the new Haifa Central Bus Station, Platform 1, at 8:15; and return after the ceremony.
- Bet Shean:** To Jerusalem, increased number of buses on Lines 961, 963, 964.
- Negba:** Minibus from the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, special departure platform, at 8:30.
- Be'er Tuvia:** From Tel Aviv, Line 5, near the Habimah Theater, at 9:30.

## Matza objects to Palestinian health resolutions

By JUDY SIEGEL

Annoyed by harsh wording of resolutions critical of Israel that were initiated by the Palestinian delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday urged Dr. Fathi Arafat - head of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and younger sibling of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat - "to let your brother deal with political matters and you deal with medicine and health."

Matza, who met with Arafat during the annual assembly of the World Health Organization in Geneva, said that politics must be removed from health issues, and that Palestinians would be better off giving their attention to humanitarian matters. The

Palestinian delegation had tried to get full membership status, but was denied it because it does not represent a state.

The Palestinian delegation also presented resolutions harshly criticized Israel.

"There are great gaps between us," Matza said, but the Palestinian Red Crescent Society should concentrate on humanitarian issues.

Arafat, a pediatrician, responded that his organization's political activities at the assembly resulted from the fact that "we are not a state, thus we have to depend on Arab states. We must find wording that will suit some of the extreme [Arab] states."

Matza said Arafat promised him that he would try to moderate the resolutions and remove the political wording from them.

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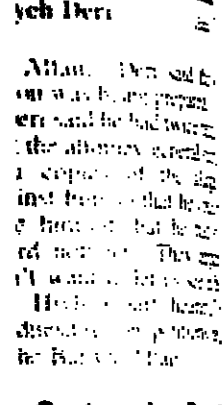
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Mr. Jan Senkyr, The Konrad Adenauer Foundation

The discussion will be held in Hebrew and English with simultaneous translation.

Suspect trial



Yeh Dviri

Continued on Page 2

gry over Rabin file



# The gesture market

A foreign dignitary who visited Gaza this week heard a curious explanation of why Yasser Arafat couldn't see him between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Apparently the PLO leader rests during those hours, since he is worn out after sleepless nights spent moving from place to place for fear of Israeli assassins.

The visitor's astonishment grew when he heard, on the same day, that President Weizman, conceding to Arafat, had agreed to meet with him after 5.

Israel made another gesture to the Palestinians this week: It lifted the closure and allowed thousands of workers from the territories to earn a living in Israel.

The Palestinian reaction? Justice Minister Freilich Abu Medein interpreted the new Palestinian law banning the sale of land to Jews (all Jews, not only Israelis) as carrying the death penalty.

Israel has let it be known through various channels that it is preparing several more gestures to the Palestinians, including allowing them to build extensively in Jerusalem.

What have we had in return? A Palestinian initiative in the UN for economic sanctions on Israel. That failed, but the initiative itself is hard to shrug off. It is a revival of the boycott, of the economic war of pre-Oslo days.

We have been behaving rather less generously toward Jordan. After King Hussein apologized to the families of the seven murdered schoolgirls from Beit Shemesh, he had a basis to hope for some response from Israel. Certainly not all the water needed to quench Amman's thirst, since Israel's own sources are severely limited. But before this week's crisis with Jordan erupted we could have offered the king at least part of what we will eventually be giving him anyway.

It's no secret that Yitzhak Rabin made a great concession to Hussein by being so very generous over water in the peace treaty. Even Shimon Peres said Rabin had been far too munificent.

**MOSHE ZAK**

Hussein knows Israel is sincere in its desire to help Jordan out over the water issue, and he understands our water problems here. So when he felt a crisis brewing, he was quick to call the premier to try and limit the damage.

If Israel is really willing to reward Hussein for his unqualified support of a warm peace between our countries, any problem can be solved.

But it makes no sense, while Hussein is working trying to persuade the ruler of Oman not to break off relations with Israel, for us to reject the king's good offices

**We scatter concessions in every direction, ignoring the needs of our friends**

as mediator between Israel and Arafat.

Hussein himself is eager for the role of ice-breaker, and his active mediation now could well increase his chances of gaining good standing in any permanent settlement between us and the Palestinians. This is crucial to Hussein - and yet it was our president who went off to see the PLO leader this week, not the king.

Hussein won't be fobbed off with honeyed words from us; he wants us to mind Jordanian interests in any settlement.

In spite of this, and despite our stated policy against the active involvement of the European Union, we are willing to "reward" the Europeans - except Germany - for voting against us in the UN by agreeing to EU mediation between us and Syria.

We know that the Americans oppose the European initiative; and we know that the initiative

comes from supporters of the Arab position.

Never mind all that; we are following the "drums of peace" heard by EU envoy Miguel Moratinos in Damascus, exploring his formula for renewing negotiations with Syria.

Carelessly, it seems, we scatter concessions in every direction, not seeing things in their wider context.

Colombian President Ernesto Samper is current president of the Organization of Non-Aligned Nations. At its congress in Delhi last month, several anti-Israel resolutions were passed. In the name of the organization, half of whose member states are Moslem, Samper is now touring nine member states.

Yesterday he inaugurated the official Palestinian guest house, and spent the night there.

Israel could have expressed its opposition to this precedent established in Gaza by forgoing Samper's hasty visit to Jerusalem; we could even have passed up on Samper's kind offer to mediate with the Palestinians.

It would have been an excellent gesture to Washington, which asked Israel not to host the Colombian leader. And Samper would not have been offended had we explained that it was because of his gesture to Arafat. But, for some reason, we seem to prefer those who vote against us to those who are for us.

Sometimes we even aid our worst enemies. The latest example was our indirect contribution to the panic over the chemical warfare Syria is fomenting against us. Engendered last week by the needless argument in the cabinet over who should pay for distributing gas masks, it allows Hafez Assad to make public threats of war.

Of course Assad far prefers Israel to be the side to sound the alarm. That only increases the pressure on Jerusalem to save the region from conflagration.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



# Political culture always wins

A mere week since the British elections, the defeated Conservative Party of former prime minister John Major finds itself in the midst of a campaign to elect a new leader of the party.

Within hours of his defeat, even before tendering his formal resignation to the Queen, Major had already announced that he would not be continuing as party leader.

It was, he said, only right that a defeated leader give way to someone else, someone who could lead the party into opposition and from there back to the next general election to be held five years down the road.

In the space of a week, no fewer than six candidates put themselves up for election; the contest will be held at the beginning of June.

Thus, within less than two months after national elections, the opposition Conservative Party will have a new leader and will be busy getting into the business of providing an active opposition to Britain's new Labour government.

Concurrently with elections for Conservative Party leader, Israel's Labour Party will finally be holding its own elections to find a successor to outgoing party chairman Shimon Peres.

By the time the contest takes place, over a year will have passed since Labour's defeat at the polls.

During that period, Peres has tenaciously held onto his position as party chairman, even attempting to find his way back into a national unity government, thereby retaining his hold over the party.

Politics is about winning elections and implementing the policies for which the candidate and his or her party stand.

Defeated candidates in both the US and Britain are quick to offer their immediate resignations. They understand that in failing to bring their party to power, they have failed to reach first base in the game.

It doesn't make much difference whether they lost by a landslide, or by a small majority of votes. Nor does it matter whether they were successful in the past, or whether this was their first attempt.

They tried, they failed, and

the one delivered by the attorney-general in the Bar-On Affair, regardless of whether or not they were formally indicted. In either of these countries, they would have had to resign immediately, if only because "public standards have to be maintained."

A police chief caught speaking on his mobile phone, or a cabinet minister caught speeding would be expected to give up his post. The benefits and privileges of holding high office, of being continually in the public eye, require higher and more stringent standards of behavior than those expected of the average citizen.

Many of the Conservative Party candidates in last week's elections lost what were considered very safe seats, because they had been tainted by "sleaze" accusations far less serious than those with which Israel's premier and justice minister have been accused.

Not having resigned at the time, they were punished by the electorate. They were held directly accountable to the people who voted for them.

Unfortunately, the lack of constituencies in Israel means that politicians do not have to be accountable to the voters, only to the party faithful.

But it is not merely a question of which election system is better. The real question focuses on the essence of a country's political culture.

The losers in last week's British elections accepted their defeat with good grace, handing over power within 24 hours to the incoming administration. They understood the need for an effective and immediate opposition to what they perceive as a new and inexperienced government. (Where have we heard that one before?)

Israeli politicians in general, and the Labour Party in particular, would do well to take some lessons from their British counterparts if they are to start, finally, behaving like a real opposition to the Netanyahu government.

**DAVID NEWMAN**

The Netanyahu government has implemented major changes, most notably in the peace process, with little or no parliamentary opposition whatsoever.

Compared with the opposition displayed by the Likud to the policies of the Rabin government, the Labour Party has all but disappeared.

There is something about Israeli politics that allows defeated leaders to continue grasping the reins of control. Menachem Begin successfully remained leader of the opposition for nearly 30 years before finally coming to power.

But, unlike virtually every

Peres proved unable to combat the joint forces of Palestinian terrorism and the popularity of Binayamin Netanyahu.

Once again, we saw the sad figure of a man who, having accomplished so much on behalf of his country, was reduced to accepting defeat at the polls.

And instead of allowing him to retire as a respected elder statesman, his supporters are busily trying to create a new post of party "president," a position which will likely only add to the party's internal problems and distractions, even after a new leader is elected.

One would have thought last May that the graceful thing for Peres to do would have been to resign immediately as party chairman. Instead in 1992, Yitzhak Shamir lost little time in resigning as party leader. He realized that his political career had come to an end, that it was time to hand over the reins to a new and younger incumbent. Giving way to a new, younger leader would have enabled Labor to undergo a process of internal restructuring, to begin forming an effective and vociferous opposition to the policies of the Netanyahu administration.

Instead, we have been subjected to a year of party infighting.

TOO many Israel leaders believe they are immune to public criticism. No American or British leader could have withstood the full force of a legal report such as

## Britain's John Major resigned as soon as his party lost the election. Defeated Israeli leaders hang on for dear life

# The role of legal modesty

**ALLAN E. SHAPIRO**

In his decision in the Bar-On Affair, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein "did" not set off an earthquake. It is not in his nature.

However, he did ignite a long fuse. This affair is not going to go away. It will end with a bang, not a whimper.

The short-term effect - efforts to exploit the decision - as Rubinstein correctly foretold in the first part of his summation, came from all sides of the political system. However, his expressed hope for a measured response, after his report had been thoroughly read and digested, was dashed at once.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement to the nation, immediately after the conclusion of the announcement of Rubinstein's decision, was, as Deputy Finance Minister David Magen properly termed it, an insult to public intelligence.

Rubinstein clearly alluded to the long-term effect of the decision in the next part of the summation. The immediate decision was to bring criminal charges only against Aryeh Deri.

However, he declared, what has been uncovered, "the involvement of an individual or individuals accused of crime in an attempt to appoint the head of the prosecution," is not only worrisome, "it is obligatory that the moral will be drawn."

How? That is not for the attorney-general to decide. On the question of the proper forum for drawing the moral, he left us, literally, up in the air, with a moving quotation from Psalms 19:13, "Who can discern errors? Clear Thou me from hidden faults."

Perhaps the key to an understanding of Rubinstein's decision is in the next verse of the psalm, which he does not quote: "Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins; That they may not have dominion over me; then shall I be faultless; And I shall be clear from great transgression."

Whether or not Rubinstein is faultless, he certainly is not presumptuous. Legal modesty is the leitmotif that passes through all 18 pages of his decision.

It is doubtful if any attorney-general in Israel's history has been as immersed in the tides of political conflict as Rubinstein. Indeed, when Yitzhak Shamir appointed him deputy attorney-general, near the end of his term of office, there was opposition. Some claimed that he had not had enough pure legal experience.

Only after another stretch as cabinet secretary, this time under Yitzhak Rabin, and then as chief legal adviser to the defense establishment and adviser to the prime minister, was he appointed to the Jerusalem District Court bench.

rules of evidence would not operate in the same manner. Evidence of probative value inadmissible in court would have been admissible in a non-criminal investigation. Secondly, there would be findings of fact and conclusions pertaining to all the issues involved, not merely to the side issue of criminal liability. There could also be operative recommendations.

According to past practice, the personal recommendations of a judicial commission of inquiry would be binding on the government. That is the main reason governments are loath to go that route. The power and authority of judicial commissions threatens to put them out of business.

A judicial inquiry can take place simultaneously with a criminal prosecution. This was the case in one of the earliest investigations, into the Al-Aksa fire, which went on while the criminal trial of the demented Australian Christian fundamentalist arsonist took place.

Under the new direct election law, a criminal investigation of the prime minister requires the consent of the attorney-general. Suppose that when Netanyahu asked Edna Arbel, then acting attorney-general, to commence the investigation into the Bar-On Affair, she had conditioned her agreement on government approval of the creation of a judicial commission of inquiry?

This would seem sound procedure, where the circumstances suggest a close weave of problems of political norms and criminal liability.

Maybe next time - or after the next elections?

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.

**Attorney-General Rubinstein dealt solely with the criminal aspects of what is a far more complex problem**

attorney-general is truly doing a superb job in his area of primary responsibility.

He may be doing a better job in avoiding judgment on the legality of politics than has the High Court of Justice. From its initial decision to bar the appointment of Yossi Ginzessor as director-general of the Housing Ministry to its later decisions requiring the resignations of Deputy Minister Raphael Pinhasi and Minister Deri, the court has arrogated to itself a function that has no counterpart abroad.

Setting the criteria for eligibility to public office is a function of the confirmation process in the American system. Here, it has become the concern of the judicial system.

In view of the High Court's decisions, Section 26 of the Basic Law: The Government, which provides for the removal from office of the prime minister by a majority vote in the Knesset only after he has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, seems like a strange aberration.

I said in these pages soon after the Bar-On Affair developed ("They shouldn't have called the cops," February 2): "The likely conclusion is that no law was violated - which wasn't the issue in the first place - and Netanyahu will declare that he has been vindicated."

I was certainly wrong about the police. A judicial commission of inquiry, or an investigation by the state comptroller, would have had a different objective and would have reached a different conclusion.

First of all, the exclusionary

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# Mobutu, in Gabon, seeks Zaire deal

### News agencies

LIBREVILLE - Zaire's embattled leader Mobutu Sese Seko and a handful of fellow French-speaking African presidents held a mini-summit in Gabon yesterday as part of the hunt for a peaceful end to the war threatening his capital.

South Africa, which brought Mobutu and his civil war rival Laurent Kabila together on a South African ship on Sunday, said peace moves appeared on track and Kabila's rebels seemed to be respecting a pledge to halt their march on Kinshasa.

In Tanzania, South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said a second meeting between Mobutu and Kabila was set for next Wednesday, adding that the place was uncertain because of Mobutu's health. He has been suffering from prostate cancer.

Mbeki gave no details of the plans for the talks.

In Cape Town, President Nelson Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, told reporters earlier: "There is no reason to believe Mr Kabila is not keeping to his undertaking that he will stop movement of his troops on all fronts."

Kinshasa was reported calm yesterday but residents of the city of five million people remain apprehensive - a mood reflected in the capital's newspapers.

The independent *Reference Plus* quoted Mobutu's security adviser Honore Ngbanda as saying the city was a powder keg and any fire lit there could be very difficult to put out.

In Mbio, a typical dirt-poor village, people wait in fear for approaching rebel soldiers to descend from the surrounding lush green hills.

If rebel leader Kabila's claims are true, his troops are just a few km from Mbio - just an hour's drive on a well-paved road from Kinshasa, the capital and the ultimate goal of Kabila's advancing forces.

Some of the heaviest fighting of the war is going on near Mbio, accounts from aid workers suggest. Doctors Without Borders said 100 civilians were killed in the battle for Kenge, a city down the road.

Mbio's villagers went about their business yesterday, but they were alert for the first sound of gunfire and for the first sight of military vehicles rushing back from the front line.

"We're defenseless," 21-year-old villager Maya Ngansi said.

"All we can do is wait. We have nowhere to run." The people of

Mbio and other villages along the road say they've seen government troops hurry by on their way to the fighting. They say foreign allied forces are stationed nearby.

"There are big guns, armored cars, tanks," villager Mpoyi Mwanba said, as he prepared to eat a meal of fried fish, caught in the nearby Zaire River.

Mbio's aging chief says he is sorry for the troubles of Mobutu.

"Papa Mobutu has been our president for such a long time - of course we will be sad to see him go," chief Tabwene Modi said.

But despite their fear of Kabila's advance, the young people of the village also have hope that their lives might somehow be better under the rebels.

Three decades of Mobutu's dictatorship have made him one of the world's wealthiest politicians - and his people among the world's poorest.

"There is nothing but misery here. We young people grow old too fast," teenager Boki Kilonga said. "We'll take any leader who makes this country work."

In northeastern Zaire yesterday, the head of Rwanda's repatriation commission arrived in Kisangani to visit a refugee camp where dozens of Rwandan Hutus are dying daily.

tion without having bothered to read the state attorney's report on the affair carefully.

If they had read it, the response said, they would have noted that Netanyahu and Hanegbi are not being indicted because there is not enough evidence to support an indictment. Thus the petitioners' claim that the decision not to indict constitutes the ignoring of evidence is baseless.

Dr. Shmuel Sa'adia yesterday submitted a petition to the High Court of Justice demanding that a state commission of inquiry be appointed to look into the Bar-On Affair, calling the decision-making process in the Bar-On appointment completely defective and a mockery of the law.

### DERI

Continued from Page 2

At the Golani and Nahalal junctions in the North, dozens of Deri supporters held demonstrations.

*Item adds:*

The High Court should throw out a petition by Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Yona Yahav calling for the indictment of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, the State Attorney's Office said yesterday, in its response to one of the several petitions filed in connection with the Bar-On Affair.

The state attorney claimed that the two MKs submitted their peti-

thought our delegates should hear an unadulterated voice from the Right. Begin enthusiastically accepted my invitation."

Another Likud member, Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, will take part in a panel discussion on what the future political map may look like. Various other panels will include top Palestinian officials, including Faisal Hussein.

### PERES

Continued from Page 2

The invitation to Begin came from MK Uzi Baram who will debate Begin on the issue. Baram explained that he asked Begin "because his views are not watered down like those of the prime minister and those around him. I

thought our delegates should hear an unadulterated voice from the Right. Begin enthusiastically accepted my invitation."

Another Likud member, Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, will take part in a panel discussion on what the future political map may look like. Various other panels will include top Palestinian officials, including Faisal Hussein.

### ROSS

Continued from Page 1

Such concessions would include increased building for Arabs in Jerusalem or the return of permanent resident status to the more than 1,000 Jerusalem Arabs that lost it because they left to live elsewhere.

Another possible concession would be to increase the size of the 2% further redeployment from area C.

Regarding the likelihood of a breakthrough, "I don't think anybody in the national authority is optimistic," said Kanafani.

Asked on Channel 1 if a resumption of the peace talks is in the offing, Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh replied, "I am sorry to say I still cannot say that is so."

Israel is demanding that Arafat crack down on terror before

resuming talks.

Ross met Netanyahu again yesterday evening. He is due to meet Weizman in Caesarea tomorrow, then to meet Arafat in Ramallah. Afterwards, Ross intends to go to Egypt in an attempt to persuade the Egyptians to push the Palestinians to resume the peace talks.

Ross also met European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos in Jerusalem and the two tried to coordinate their positions on the peace process.

Moratinos, who is completing a shuttle mission in the Middle East, met Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur and Weizman's director-general Arye Shumer. He reiterated the position that Syria is interested in peace, and that Syrian President Hafez Assad wants to negotiate with the Netanyahu government.

## Another draw for Kasparov and computer

NEW YORK (AP) - World chess champion Garry Kasparov and his silicon nemesis, IBM's Deep Blue computer, remained tied, with 2 points each, after playing to a draw in Game 4 of their six-game series.

Kasparov offered the draw after the computer made its 56th move of the five-hour match. The machine immediately accepted.

It was the second straight day that the 34-year-old Russian and Deep Blue finished in a deadlock. Kasparov and the supercomputer split the first two games of the match. Kasparov said he held the advantage for much Game 4, but was unable to figure out how to win.

"I believe it was a win ... but I was tired and I couldn't figure it out," he said.

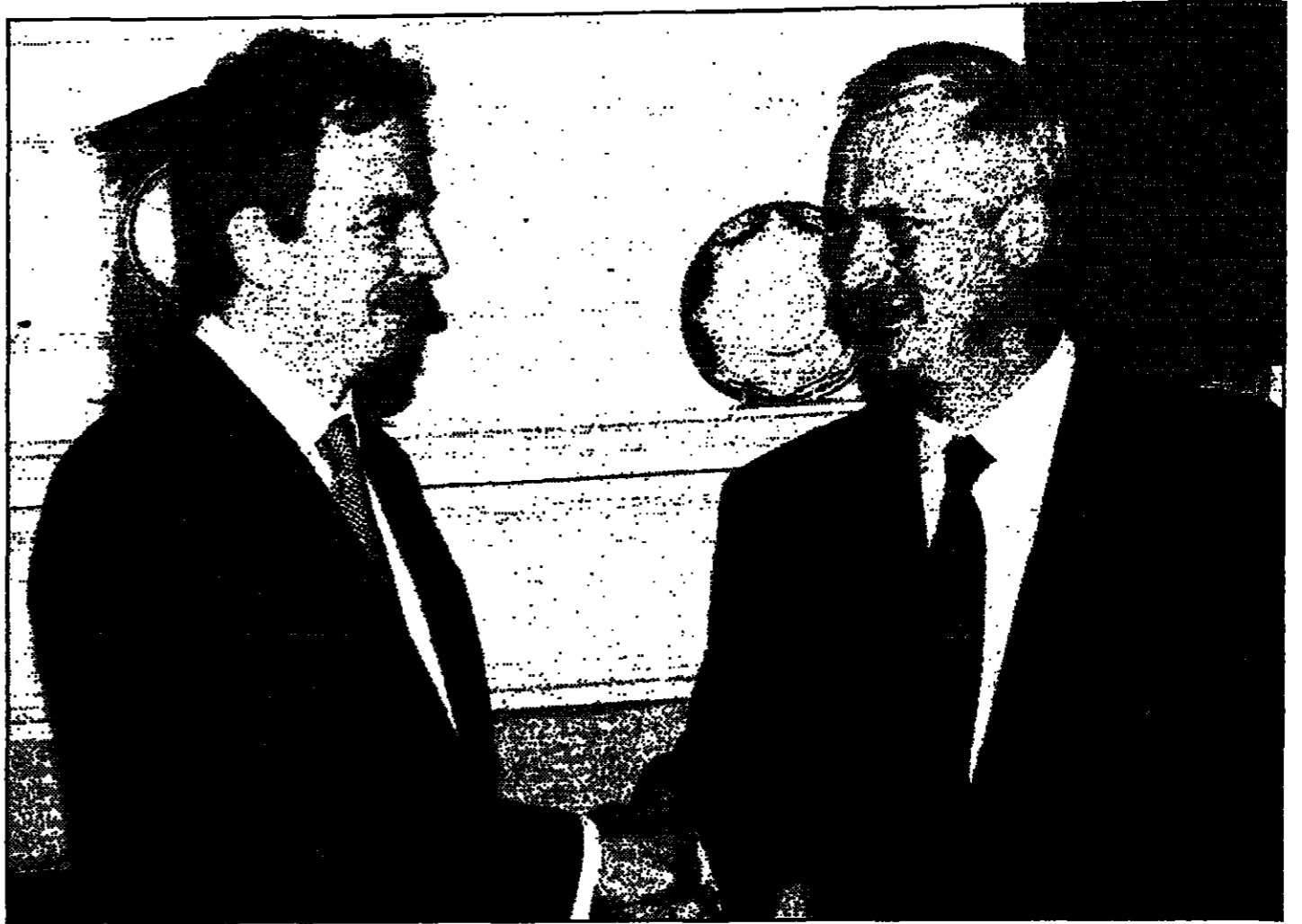
Ron Henley, a chess grandmaster from Manhattan who watched a video feed of the game at a midtown Manhattan skyscraper, agreed.

"It was a narrow escape for the computer," he said.

Yesterday, the computer played white and had the first move, an advantage sometimes compared to serving in tennis. As in the first three games, Kasparov played cautiously at the outset, seeking to avoid engagements that would allow the computer to take advantage of its superior calculating skills.

Kasparov's Game 4 opening was a notable departure from his traditionally aggressive opening strategy.

"There's no chance he'd play this opening against a human opponent," said John Fedorowicz, a chess grandmaster from Manhattan who watched the video feed.



New British Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) greets Irish Prime Minister John Bruton at 10 Downing Street yesterday. (AP)

## Bruton: Bring IRA into peace talks

LONDON (Reuters) - Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said yesterday the IRA's political wing should be admitted to all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland next month if the group announced an immediate, genuine cease-fire.

Bruton was speaking ahead of talks in London later in the day with Tony Blair, which will be the new British prime minister's first meeting with a fellow head of government.

He told BBC radio the new Blair government, with a 179-seat majority in parliament and five years of government in front of it, represented "a great opportunity" to move things forward in Northern Ireland.

Bruton said now was the time for an Irish Republican Army (IRA) cease-fire "clearly accompanied by a political change of heart and deeds matching that political change of heart."

It should be one "where people looking into their eyes, so to speak, can see that in their hearts this time they mean it." In that case, Bruton said, there was no reason why Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm which won two seats in Britain's May 1 election, should not join all-party talks on the future of the province quickly.

"If there was a cease-fire now and if it was one that was really full-hearted and you could see that it was full-hearted ... I see no reason why they should not be in the talks when the talks resume (on June 3)," Bruton said.

The talks, chaired by former US senator George Mitchell, began last June but had made little progress by the time they were temporarily halted ahead of the British election.

The outgoing British Conservative government always insisted the IRA should begin to dismantle their huge stocks of weapons and

explosives before being admitted to the all-party talks.

But no such insistence appeared in Blair's Labor Party election manifesto, which committed his government to reconciliation of republican aspirations for a united Ireland and loyalist insistence that Northern Ireland remain British.

The IRA called a cease-fire in its 25-year war to oust Britain from Northern Ireland in September 1994, but continued to prepare for further violence.

The cease-fire ended in February last year with a bomb blast in the Docklands area of east London which killed two people.

During the run-up to the British election, the IRA repeatedly snarled up Britain's rail and road networks by warnings - sometimes genuine, sometimes not - of bombs planted on busy motorways or rail junctions.

## Burglar needs police like a hole in the head

YORK, Pennsylvania (AP) - A man shot in the head as he attempted a burglary sat on his front porch with a bullet between his eyes waiting for police to arrive, authorities say.

Michael Hughes, 30, was treated at York Hospital before being arraigned on charges of burglary, theft, receiving stolen property and reckless endangerment for the incident.

Police said Hughes broke into the home of Kenneth Miller, then tried to escape in Miller's truck after he arrived home.

When the driver ignored Miller's order to stop, Miller fired a shot from his .22-caliber pistol through the windshield, hitting the burglar.

Police said Hughes drove home about a kilometer away and his family called for help.

Prosecutors announced they would not bring charges against Miller for shooting Hughes.

## Falling fuel tank kills 6 in Karachi

KARACHI (AP) - Six people were killed yesterday when the pilot of a French-made Mirage jet jettisoned his burning auxiliary fuel tanks over a congested neighborhood in this southern port city.

Another nine people were rushed to Karachi's Abbas Shaheed Hospital with serious burn injuries, said Dr. Imtiaz Memon.

Several of the injured were in critical condition, said Memon.

"We have declared a state of emergency in the hospital because we do not have facilities to treat so many serious burn victims at once," Memon said in a telephone interview.

The Pakistan Air Force Mirage jet was on a routine exercise when its two auxiliary fuel tanks caught

fire, said air force Wing Commander Aftab Saffar.

"The aircraft was on a routine training mission when it developed a serious in-flight emergency," an air force statement said. "In a bid to prevent the aircraft from crashing over a populated area, which would have resulted in a major catastrophe, the pilot had to jettison the tanks."

One burning tank landed on a two-story apartment building.

The other landed in an empty lot next door. However four other small apartment buildings on the same street also caught fire.

Five of the dead were from the same family. The youngest victim was five years old, said his mother, Mubina Yaseen. The sixth victim also a child was visiting when

the tragedy occurred.

Mrs. Yaseen stood outside the smoldering apartment building wailing. As she rocked back and forth she said she had left the apartment building earlier yesterday to visit a relative. Her oldest child was in his late 20s.

When she returned the building was destroyed and her family dead.

"What happened? I don't know. My family is gone," she cried.

Her husband, an ice seller, was outside the apartment building when the burning fuel tank landed on his home.

"I heard this explosion and I saw my house in flames," he said tears streaming down his cheeks. "I had just stepped out on to the street."

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**NATHAN GOTTLIEB**  
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Brother, Joseph Gottlieb  
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Brother, Emanuel Gottlieb  
Sister, Reggie Weiss  
and all their nieces and nephews

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**GLORIA and MORDECHAI DOLINSKY** ז"ל

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The Family

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on the passing of her mother

**CHAVA HOCHBERG** ז"ל

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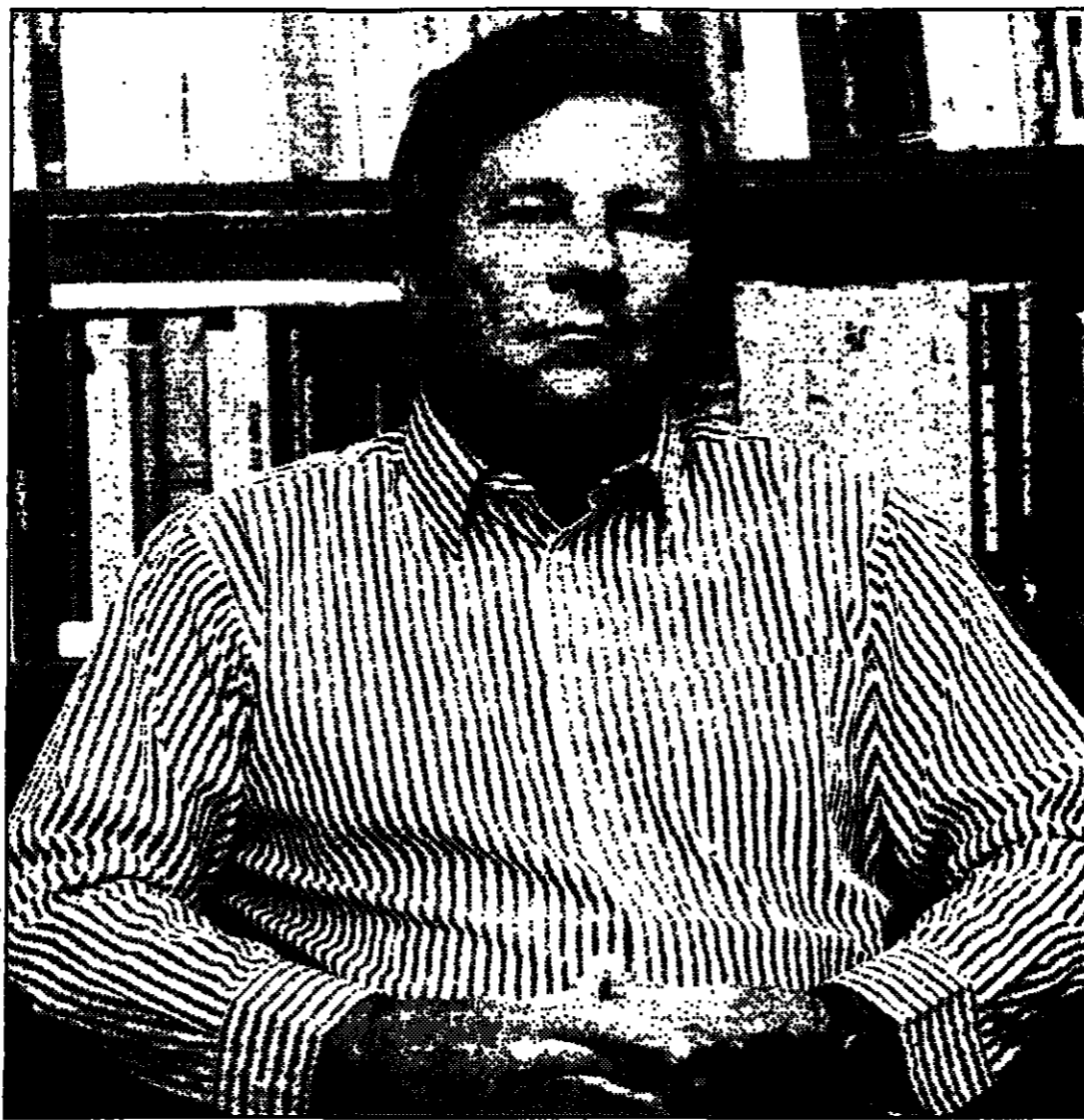
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הלאה מן האש

## An insider's view of the Jordan rift

In his first newspaper interview since returning from Amman, former ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir talks to Dan Izenberg about strained relations between the two countries



Prof. Shimon Shamir: There have been too many cases of misunderstanding, insufficient coordination, use of improvised and irregular channels and leaks about secret meetings. (Ariel Jeruzolimski)

Middle East expert Prof. Shimon Shamir returned to his home in Jerusalem two months ago after serving for the past two years as Israel's first ambassador to Jordan. Though he is an academic by profession, his tour in Amman marked his second diplomatic posting. He served as ambassador to Egypt under the national unity government of Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, from 1988 to 1990. He resigned his post after the national unity government broke up and prime minister Shamir formed his right-wing government, because he disagreed with the new government's policy. Though appointed by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and then foreign minister Peres after the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty in 1994, he stayed on under Netanyahu because the latter announced that he would abide by the Oslo Accords. Shamir said he accepted the Amman posting on condition that he would serve no more than a two-year term. His return, he said, had nothing to do with political differences with the Netanyahu government, although he noted that he came back before the prime minister ordered construction to begin at Har Homa.

of the peace treaty which deals with water. According to the text, "Israel and Jordan shall cooperate in finding sources for the supply of Jordan of an additional quantity of 50 million cubic meters of water of drinkable standards [per year]. To this end, the joint water committee will develop within one year from the entry into force of the treaty a plan for the supply of the above-mentioned additional water to Jordan." According to the treaty, therefore, we are a year-and-a-half past the deadline. I don't remember a single meeting involving Israeli ministers or prime ministers in which the Jordanians did not raise this issue and explain over and over again that in view of the water shortage in Jordan, they would very much like to see this article implemented. The first time Israel came up with a plan to provide this 50 million cu.m. was very recently, under the present government. [Former] water commissioner [Meir] Ben-Meir proposed a plan that was positively received by the Jordanians. He showed that by the intensification of aquaculture and by the treatment of wastewater in Israel, the requisite amount could be provided to Jordan without in any way lowering the level of water supply for the Beit She'an Valley region. The plan would cost about \$150 million and requires further study and planning. The problem that emerged was the question of cost. As the Jordanians put it, there are always three criteria that have to be examined - quantity, quality and cost. The quantity and quality of the water are specified in the agreement. The costs are not. The water article in the body of the peace treaty specifies that there is a genuine water shortage and solutions should be found by locating new sources of water.

And here, desalination is very important, as well as treatment of wastewater and the use of modern technologies. The problem is that when you come to these methods, you encounter the question of costs. Who's going to pay for it? All this is not clear and there are differences between the Israeli and Jordanian positions. I am personally confident they can be overcome. What is needed is a very serious approach to the problem and very intensive talks between the two parties. The talks must not be postponed, because the problem is not going to disappear. Do you agree with the prime

minister's description of the clash between Jordan and Israel over the water agreement, the cancellation of the memorial ceremony at Naharayim and the misunderstanding between the countries as to whether a meeting between Netanyahu and Crown Prince Hassan had in fact been scheduled as a "mini-crisis"? These events should be seen in context of the nature of the relations between the Jordanian and Israeli governments today. It is no secret that mutual confidence has eroded in recent months. I can quote a close adviser of our prime minister who said that while the previous government had a credit line of six months, the present

government has a credit line of two weeks. He said that before the dispute over Har Homa began, I suspect that were he to say it today, the credit line would be less than two weeks. In other words, there is today an atmosphere of impatience, apprehension and suspicion in the relations between Israel and Jordan, and in this context it can be understood why issues develop the way they have in recent days. We definitely face a problem of communication and dialogue management. Since the formation of the new government in Israel, there have been too many cases of misunderstanding, insufficient coordination, use of improvised and irregu-

lar channels and leaks about secret meetings, all of which have eroded the effectiveness of the political dialogue. There are many examples of this, most of them well known. Remember the clash over the dates for the visit to Amman by Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai last February, or the fact that there was no coordination between the visit of Netanyahu's adviser Dore Gold to King Hussein and the government's decision to open the Western Wall tunnel. Such blunders create embarrassment and erode the credibility of the parties concerned. How important is the Oslo agreement and the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians in determining King Hussein's attitude towards Israel? It's a well-known fact that the Oslo agreement took the Jordanians by surprise, but the country's leaders are pragmatic. They know where their interests lie, they read the map and they formulate their policies accordingly. Today, Jordanian policy clearly supports the Oslo peace process and would like it to continue. I would go even farther. Difficulties arising in the implementation of this agreement are now seen as detrimental to the interests of Jordan. Jordan is very attentive to what is happening in the territories, because events there have an immediate bearing on the situation in the country itself. Jordanians would go even so far as to say that an unstable situation in the West Bank could, in a worst-case scenario, create another wave of emigration to the East Bank. They say they managed to absorb three such waves in the past - 1948, 1967 and 1991 - and they don't want to face the threats and dangers of another. So Jordan now supports the process and supports the effort of the Palestinians to bring this process to their goal, which is the establishment of a Palestinian state. Do you believe Jordan serves as an honest broker in times of crisis between Israel and the Palestinian authority? On occasion, Jordanian participation in the peace process has been very constructive, most dramatically on the eve of the signing of the Hebron agreement. The king played an important role and

the Jordanians are very proud of it. They would like it to continue, though not at the expense of the Egyptian role. Behind this involvement is the fact that Jordanians, Israelis and Palestinians are inseparably bound by a whole network of interests. There can be no agreement between Israel and the Palestinians that will not affect Jordan. Therefore, the Jordanians have a legitimate interest in being in dialogue with both parties. Unlike Egypt, Jordan is linked to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process by existential interests, and therefore, my personal opinion is that any solution we can envisage for the future must bring into consideration these three parties. As the peace process evolves, the cooperation between them will inevitably increase and intensify. Is the Jordanian government disappointed with other aspects of the peace with Israel? Everyone is familiar with the Jordanian complaints that the "fruits of peace" have not materialized. In fact, however, Jordan did benefit economically from peace. There was debt forgiveness, not only by the US, and there was a wave of gestures from the industrialized world meant to assist the Jordanian economy. On the macro level, the fruits of peace are evident and admitted. The problems appear on the micro level. The complaint you hear most frequently in Jordan is that the economic plight of the man on the street has not improved; as a matter of fact, in many cases it has even deteriorated since 1994. What we face here is a situation of exaggerated expectations and insufficient awareness of the need for time for economic changes to be achieved. Many positive things are happening. There are industrial joint ventures which provide Jordanians with employment, investment, production and export, and provide Israelis with access to the Jordanian labor market. So far, there haven't been more than about a dozen such plans, but the potential is enormous. Israeli tourism, and tourism originating from Israel, are also important factors. But on the whole, we must recognize that all of this falls short of expectations. Continued on Page 9

## The nightmare of VX gas

Home defense against a Syrian chemical weapons attack is not being taken seriously by the government, Steve Rodan reports

The scenario runs like this: The year is 1999 and Iran has secretly achieved a breakthrough and finally assembled nuclear warheads. Syria, Tehran's ally, decides that the time is right for an offensive on the Golan Heights. The Syrian military begins with a massive barrage of artillery and rocket fire as hundreds of tanks stream down the Golan Heights past Israeli defenses. At the same time, hundreds of conventional missiles rain down on Israeli airports and army bases in the north. Israel launches a counterattack on the Golan and at the same time responds with a crushing air attack on Damascus and key strategic installations in Syria. That's when Syria pulls out its ace in the hole. The ace is the Scud-C tipped with a chemical warhead. The chemical is VX. A nightmare? Perhaps. But the scenario is being discussed in the cabinet and in the Israeli military and intelligence establishment. And the key is VX, a toxin deadlier than just about any other chemical weapon and which can last in the targeted area for days. For defense planners, the most worrisome aspect is that many in the IDF and virtually everybody in the government have simply not taken the Syrian chemical weapons capability seriously enough to respond with a credible civil defense program. Money for the current program to upgrade civil defense equipment, such as gas masks, has run out as the government relies on what IDF officers say are outdated studies that claim that only hundreds will die in a chemical weapons attack. "The chemical threat has not only not abated, it has increased," says MK Yossi Sarid, who is petitioning the High Court for renewed government funding for the gas mask program. "The sealed room is not an alternative. If we don't find money in the next few days civil defense stations will close."

ment has refused to acknowledge the threat. For Danny Shoham, a reserve colonel in intelligence and a researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, VX is the kind of killer chemical that can tip the scales in Damascus in favor of an attack. "In a few short years, Iran will have nuclear weapons," he says. "I am sure that Iran will have nuclear weapons and give Syria a nuclear umbrella. The minute that Syria has the umbrella it will not hesitate to use chemical weapons against Israel because it won't fear an Israeli nuclear attack." VX was developed by the US in the 1960s but a few years later the Russians came up with their own version. This nerve gas was far more toxic than the American model. Unlike other nerve gases, such as Sarin, VX evaporates extremely slowly so winds can't blow it away. Also unlike Sarin, VX penetrates the skin. Intelligence sources say that for nearly two years they received reports that Syria had the Russian version of VX. But several weeks ago, new reports came in that the Syrians have managed to install the gas in a Scud warhead. Suddenly, Damascus acquired the killer capability of firing the killer chemical anywhere in Israel. The result, military sources say, is that Israel's civil defense program against a chemical missile attack has been thrown in disarray. The IDF's Home Front spent millions on gas masks and serums for every Israeli but this equipment is insufficient against VX. Shoham says the equipment the Home Front distributed was based on a chemical attack using Sarin, which is highly toxic but a light gas that will stay in the air for only hours. Israelis who manage to lock themselves inside sealed rooms themselves inside sealed rooms could be stranded outside would be virtually helpless with the equipment they have been given. "The VX program requires

major changes to the Home Front program," Shoham says. "Whoever decided to give masks assumes that the sealed room and the serums were not enough for protection against a chemical attack. The serum is effective but does not give full protection. The gas masks can give 100 percent effectiveness if the gas does not penetrate the skin." The government's response, however, has been to play down the issue. State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, in her report released on Wednesday, details how successive governments since the Gulf War dismissed the possibility of a chemical weapons attack as virtually impossible. For years, the prospect of a chemical weapons attack was virtually secret. The first State Comptroller's Report that dealt with civil defense in 1985 was a classified document. The report became public only in September 1993. By that time, Israelis knew what had been obvious to the IDF and the government: that at least a third of the gas masks distributed during the 1991 Gulf War were ineffective against chemical weapons. The result was an IDF program to improve the protection of civil-defense equipment given to Israelis. Money was poured into developing a better gas mask in which one size could fit all. The State Comptroller's report said that didn't work and the project was shelved. At the same time, the government began chipping away at the Home Front's program. When originally approved in January 1992, the gas-mask program budget for the years 1991-5 was NIS 520 million. When the Home Front returned to ask for funding for a program for the years 1996-2000, the budget request was NIS 600 million. This time, then-prime minister and defense minister Shimon Peres ordered a smaller program. The Home Front presented a NIS 470 million budget. Peres approved the changes in August 1995 but ordered a review of any production or purchase of items needed for the gas mask revitalization project. That's when the Finance Ministry entered. In November 1995, the Treasury ordered a study on the effects of a chemical weapons attack from the Center



Will this really help? The government and military cannot agree on how to protect civilians from a chemical attack. (Paul Mellinger)

for Military Research, owned by the Rafael Armaments Development Authority. The center was asked for a concept of an efficient civil defense protection program. The IDF's Home Front opposed the study and by March 1996 refused to cooperate with the center. Officers said the IDF Planning Division was already conducting a similar study and warned that the Rafael-owned center did not have the necessary knowledge of chemical weapons and threat assessments. In June 1996, the center presented its draft and by October the final version was released to the government. The study, entitled "The protection system for the home front," asserted that its assessments were based on several studies prepared by the military and Defense Ministry, including one by the IDF in January 1996

The study virtually dismissed the prospect of a chemical weapons attack on Israel. The conclusion was that the gas-mask program was unnecessary. "The chance that the scenario accorded to the Home Front will actually materialize and that the protection set could contribute to the potential [chemical weapons] is very low," the comptroller quotes the study as saying. "The center assessed that a chemical weapons attack is an extremely radical and grave scenario and that a scenario that a chemical weapons attack would occur at the beginning of the war is extremely radical and is not reasonable." Still, the study assessed the results of a chemical weapons attack on an Israeli community. The comptroller quotes the study as saying that full protection - including gas masks and serums - from a chemical weapons attack would save

220 lives and 60 moderately injured people. The study does not regard this as much of an achievement. "The output needed for the continuation of the protection program in proportion to the savings of casualties is not much higher than accepted in saving lives in the country and world," the study says. "It would mean the saving of each life would cost \$50 million [since Israel's entire long-range civil-defense program will cost NIS 4.9b.] and this is much higher than that computed in the health system. The average cost of improving the condition of a victim of chemical attack by injections is estimated at \$3 million, much higher than acceptable in other areas." The bottom line, the study says: "It is possible to find more worthwhile alternatives." An alternative, the study says, would be to improve an alert system to a

chemical weapons attack as well as a plan to increase awareness on how to use sealed rooms. THE CENTER'S study was enough to change some key opinions in the government. On July 7, the government scrapped a NIS 60 million gas-mask distribution effort, and by September Finance Minister Dan Meridor recommended that the entire NIS 460 million gas-mask revitalization program be terminated. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai agreed. Instead, the cabinet decided to limit the guidelines for civilian protection to sealed rooms. It called for ways to establish a special room for protection against a missile attack by inserting special windows while leaving the outer walls intact. Continued on Page 8





# Who paved the road to Rabin Square?

### A controversial documentary by Michael Karpin has re-opened the debate over who was behind the incitement campaign that preceded Rabin's murder, Larry Derfner reports

A reminder and an expose" is how executive producer David Mosevics describes the documentary *The Road to Rabin Square*, which traces the incitement that preceded Rabin's assassination. The film will be shown on Channel 2's *Fact* program on Tuesday night.

Written and directed by former Channel 1 journalist Michael Karpin, the 60-minute film is filled with the signature TV news footage from that period - demonstrators chanting "Rabin is a traitor/murderer," and then opposition leaders Benjamin Netanyahu, Ariel Sharon, Rehavam Ze'evi and others firing up the crowds.

Karpin's main "scoop" is his contention that there was a direct, formal connection between the right-wing Knesset leadership, called the "Political Directorate" and led by Tzahi Hanegbi, the mainstream settler activists called the "Joint Staff" and led by then-Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza (Yehsa) leader Uri Ariel, and the "Action Headquarters," a coalition of extremists who explicitly preached hatred, anti-Arab racism and violence.

"Hanegbi was the Likud's operations officer in the struggle against Rabin. He made the ties between the Knesset opposition and the Action Headquarters, which was controlled by Kahanists and extremists," the narrator tells.

Hanegbi and Ariel declined to be interviewed for the documentary, Karpin says. (Requests from *The Jerusalem Post* to interview Ariel for this article went unanswered; Hanegbi's spokesman said he would not respond until he saw the film.) Meanwhile, Hanegbi is threatening to sue Karpin for libel if the film includes accusations against him.

"Netanyahu sat on the Political Directorate, the film contends. In an interview after a screening of the film for journalists this week at Jerusalem's Cinematheque, Karpin said he did not approach Netanyahu for an on-camera interview "because we brought no allegations against him, only facts, and these were shown in TV footage. Therefore we didn't think we

needed his reaction."

Asked by the *Post* about the film's contention that the Political Directorate, with Netanyahu's participation, directed the activities of the Action Headquarters, Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said: "Demonstrations in a democratic country are legitimate, but they must not cross the line between legitimate protest and violence or incitement to violence. The prime minister made this clear time and again in the months before the assassination. At many events he called on the public to avoid expressions or actions that could encourage

incitement, he does bear moral and public responsibility, as do some of his ministers, such as [Tzahi] Hanegbi, [Ariel] Sharon and [Yehoshua] Matza."

In the film, Sharon is quoted from an interview he gave to the *Israeli newspaper Hashavim*, in which he reportedly said: "The Rabin government is worse than the Judentat."

Matza is shown saying that the Rabin government owed its majority to Arab Knesset members "who come from the PLO race, who come from the non-Jewish race." (Sharon was not interviewed in the film, and his spokesman, Ra'anan Gissin, told the *Post* that Sharon did not want to discuss the issue. "The whole subject is painful for him. Rabin was a close friend of his," Gissin explained.)

UNLIKE MOSEVICS, Karpin maintained that he had no message, no goal, not even a point to make in the documentary. "The facts I presented speak for themselves," he said. "I'm a journalist, and my only goal was to make a good documentary."

But clearly the film has a message - the one Mosevics articulated. It draws a connection not only between the protests and the assassination, but between the incitement and Netanyahu's election campaign.

"When the Action Headquarters ended its incitement campaign, it put all of its efforts into Binjamin Netanyahu's election campaign," the narrator says.

The documentary shows Action Headquarters members putting up Netanyahu election posters. Moshe Ben-Zimra, a former Action Headquarters member and brother of Gadi Ben-Zimra, one of the group's leaders, told the *Post* that Karpin's contention that the organization was led by Kahanists and extremists "is going to get him sued for libel."

(Karpin said he is not worried about lawsuits. A lawyer checked the film, and he added, "I have my investigative material.")

He was aided by a few other researchers, and Channel 1 investigative reporter Amnon Abramovich is listed as the documentary's consultant. Moshe Ben-Zimra said he was



Karpin: The facts speak for themselves. (Uri Keren)



Was the incitement against Rabin planned from above? Karpin draws connections between political leaders and extremist rabble rousers. In picture: 'A government with blood on its hands.'

not aware of Action Headquarters members working for Netanyahu's election campaign, but added: "If they did, what's wrong with it?" He deplored the assassination as "a terrible stain on the history of the Jewish people, but nobody is responsible for it except Yigal Amir, and there are question marks about that."

Karpin names names, and uses charts to show the membership of the Political Directorate, Joint Staff and Action Headquarters. Among those interviewed are Likud MK Michael Eitan and National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat, who the film contends were members of the Directorate. Each expresses regret and accepts a share of the responsibility for the mainstream opposition's failure to oust violent extremists from its ranks.

A problem with the film is that it draws no distinction between politicians like Eitan and Porat

and those such as Hanegbi and Ze'evi, who have never expressed any regret for their roles in the protest movement. Karpin's attempt to let "the facts speak for themselves" ends up depicting the incitement cam-

passage in the Book of Job foretells the advent of "Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the left - Labor, Meretz, Rabin." She says the passage shows that Rabin "will die, like this is his destiny." Speaking from his jail cell to

### Speaking from his jail cell, Yigal Amir offers his view of Netanyahu: "Look, it's a choice between blind disciples like Rabin and cynical opportunists."

Karpin, Yigal Amir offers his view of Netanyahu, and how he is different from Rabin. "Look, it's a choice between blind disciples like Rabin and cynical opportunists, you understand?" Amir says. "Bibi is an opportunist. He can still be molded, influenced. But a blind disciple goes with his head against the

documentary also includes harrowing footage of demonstrations which, the narration notes, was shown on foreign networks but not on the two Israeli TV channels. The infamous photomontages of Rabin as an SS officer are shown, but so are the heretofore unseen photomontages of Rabin as a dog. The camera pans across numerous demonstrators leaping up and down, shouting, "Death to Rabin," and burning posters that read "The Traitor," with a bullseye over Rabin's face.

The documentary is scheduled for screening at the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv Cinematheques in June.

A 15-minute segment depicting the role of American Jewish extremists in the incitement will not be shown here, but Karpin says he hopes to release the longer version of the film in the US.

## JORDAN

Continued from Page 7

The conclusion of the peace treaty was accompanied by such magnificent visions of huge projects changing the map of the region, for example, the Dead Sea-Red Sea Canal or an extensive railway system, that people find it very difficult to accept that two-and-a-half years later none of these projects is visible.

Why have things turned out this way?

The slow movement on economic projects is the result of a number of factors. The financial input of the international community has been much lower than was hoped for in Jordan. But it must also be admitted that the bureaucracy on both sides has often dragged its feet and local, narrow interests have taken precedence over the vision.

There are other factors, as well. The reception on the Jordanian side of Israeli business and economic initiative has not always been warm. The boycott by professional Jordanian syndicates creates great difficulties for Israelis interested in doing business in Jordan. Jordanian lawyers who work for Israeli-Jordanian firms are expelled from their professional association. For the same reason, it is difficult to recruit Jordanian engineers.

Many people in the Jordanian business community oppose cooperation with their Israeli counterparts as a matter of principle. The loud demonstrations against the Israeli industry exhibition, which was initiated by a Jordanian firm, deters business people on both sides.

On the Israeli side, there is also a structural problem. To develop economic relations, there is a very strong need for a coordinating authority. At the beginning of rela-

tions, there existed a body called the monitoring committee, which, on the Israeli side, had a direct channel to the prime minister. It coordinated very effectively the work of the various ministries vis-a-vis Jordan, but its mandate expired when the 15 planned bilateral agreements were completed.

The disbanding of the committee left behind it a wide gap which has not been filled. As a result, different ministries often maintain contradictory policies on important issues regarding economic projects with Jordan. The Israeli system of government is highly decentralized, and without a strong coordinating authority it is very difficult to advance cooperation.

There is now a possibility that Finance Minister Dan Meridor will undertake this role, but this appointment is being hindered by internal politics. If we don't improve coordination, economic cooperation and development will simply not take off.

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# Where the stolen gold trail leads

The plundering of gold from Nazi victims was no 'rogue operation,' but was 'essential to the financing of the German war machine,' Marilyn Henry reports

The United States, in an extraordinary report, has documented one of the greatest thefts by a government: the confiscations by Nazi Germany.

In the last seven months, 11 federal agencies have been scouring the US National Archives to research and write the history of the American efforts to identify, track and recover Nazi loot. This is a "vital but relatively neglected dimension of history" of World War II, said the lead American restitution official, Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, who issued the report in Washington on Wednesday.

Much of the information about the refugees already was known - certainly in the Jewish community and among Jewish historians. Much of the material on Swiss-Nazi financial ties has been widely publicized over the last year.

However, the 207-page Eizenstat report collects and synthesizes the information, and the official American government imprimatur guarantees a wide audience.

"Many profited handsomely from their economic cooperation with Nazi Germany, while the Allied nations were sacrificing blood and treasure to fight one of the most powerful forces of evil in the annals of history," the report said.

As the principal bankers and financial brokers for the Nazis, the Swiss figure prominently in the report. But Eizenstat stressed that his was a historians' report, not a political document. "It is a search for facts from the past. It seeks neither to defend or offend any nation," he said.

Although he cautioned that his report is "preliminary" and "incomplete," Eizenstat drew five major conclusions about Nazi looting, neutrality, Swiss-German relations, the role of the Americans and the trading of Holocaust victims' gold. The US report, for example, paints the Americans as well-intentioned and as greater champions of refugees than the other Allies, but as failing to exert enough leadership.

"Neither the US nor the Allies pressed the neutral countries hard enough to fulfill their moral obligation to help Holocaust survivors by redistributing heirless assets for their benefit." What the neutrals and the Allies drew from them remains to be seen.

### NAZI LOOT

The massive and systematic plundering of gold and other assets

from conquered nations and Nazi victims was no "rogue operation," but was "essential to the financing of the German war machine," the report said.

Much of this involved the Reichsbank, which incorporated looted assets into Germany's gold reserves. Between January 1939 and June 1945, Germany transferred gold worth \$400 million (\$3.9 billion in current values) to the Swiss National Bank in Bern. Of this, the SNB bought three-quarters, while the remainder went into the accounts of other countries as payment for goods or raw materials.

"Some" gold confiscated from individuals, including victims of Nazi atrocities, also was incorporated into Reichsbank gold stocks. The German Central Bank organized the sale or pawning of concentration-camp loot, and arranged for some of this gold to be resmelted, which would disguise its origins. The Reichsbank also assisted in converting victims' gold coins, jewelry and dental fillings into assets for deposit in a shady account under the name "Melmer."

### MORALITY TALE

For centuries, neutrality was a legitimate way for smaller nations to preserve their political sovereignty and economic viability. But World War II was a unique situation because Nazi Germany posed a mortal threat to Western civilization. However, "it is painfully clear that Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and other neutral countries were slow to recognize that this was not just another war." The Eizenstat report charged that in this instance, "neutrality collided with morality. Too often, being neutral provided a pretext for avoiding moral considerations."

While self-defense and fear might be rationales for neutrality, profit was also a rationale in all neutral countries, while there was outright Nazi sympathy in some. The report cautioned against "making simplistic moral judgments about the conduct of neutral nations in wartime," saying that the neutral states were not responsible for the world or the Holocaust.

Further, no country did as much as it might have or should have to save the Jews, Gypsies, and other innocent victims of Nazi persecution. The report noted, for example, that restrictive American immigration policies kept hundreds of thousands of refugees



Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat issues his report in Washington. 'Neutrality collided with morality.'

from finding a haven in the US.

Whatever the motivation, the effect was that the neutrals' acceptance of stolen gold helped sustain the Nazi regime and prolonged its war effort.

This continued long past the time when these countries had any legitimate reason to fear German invasion.

Department had concluded that, on balance, Switzerland's neutrality was more positive than negative for the Allies, this "relatively benign" judgment was not shared by the War, Justice or Treasury departments. These agencies said that Switzerland, in addition to providing banking and investment services, engaged in direct production for the Nazis; provided

argued that they bought the gold in good faith, that it was part of war booty obtained under international legal principles by the Third Reich during its victorious campaigns, and that there was no international legal principle that entitled the Allies to recover and redistribute Nazi assets.

In 1946, the Allies and Switzerland signed the

**"It is painfully clear that Argentina, Portugal, Spain Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and other neutral countries were slow to recognize that this was not just another war"**

### SWITZERLAND

As with the US and Canada, Switzerland had tight immigration policies that closed the doors to tens of thousands of Jews. The local Jewish community was forced to support those refugees who were admitted. It was Switzerland that inspired the "J" stamp on passports that was used to identify Jews and block them from entering the country.

Of all the neutrals, Switzerland had the most crucial economic relationship with Germany and the most complex role in World War II. It managed gold accounts for the Nazis as well as for the Allies. It was a significant intelligence post for the US, and was a "protecting power" for the Allies when it came to POWs.

Although in 1944 the State

Germany with arms, ammunition, machinery and agricultural products, and allowed "unprecedented" use of its railways for Germany and Italy.

Further, the Eizenstat report said, the Swiss bankers were aware that they were handling looted gold because the German gold reserves had been depleted - to be revived with the gold stolen from the central banks of Europe.

The Swiss then were "obdurate" negotiators after the war and maintained a "business as usual" attitude when the Allies tried to recover looted gold.

The Swiss used "legalistic positions to defend their every interest, regardless of the moral issues also at stake." Initially, the Swiss denied receiving any looted gold and opposed returning any to those who claimed it was stolen. They

"Washington Agreement," which obligated Switzerland to transfer 250 million Swiss francs (\$58.1 million) in gold to the Allies. That was to be part of the "gold pool" that would be used by the Tripartite Gold Commission to make restitution to the central banks of Europe that had been looted by the Nazis.

The \$58 million, however, was far less than the \$185 million to \$289 million in looted gold that the US estimated was at the Swiss National Bank for its own account at war's end. An additional \$120 million of German-looted gold was also estimated to be on account for other countries at that time.

Under the accord, the Swiss also agreed to liquidate German assets, half of which were to be transferred to the Allies to be used for the reconstruction of Europe and to aid stateless Nazi victims. This was never fully implemented; it was sidetracked by a number of Swiss arguments, including the exchange rate, the settlement of German debts to Switzerland, and whether German assets were truly German, or were Swiss-owned. And while the US and the Swiss wrangled over the liquidation, the

Swiss made only a "token" payment of 20 million francs toward the resettlement of refugees.

The pact was finally settled in 1952, when Switzerland paid \$28 million. This was far less than 50 percent of the value of German assets in Switzerland, which were estimated by the Swiss to be around \$250 million, while the Allies estimated the value between \$250 million and \$500 million.

"Clearly, Switzerland's delay was intended to keep German assets under its control as a guarantee for settlement of Swiss claims against the Nazi regime." Accompanying that 1946 accord were "side letters" in which the Swiss made a commitment to identify dormant, heirless accounts that could be used for the benefit of Nazi victims. However, the Swiss did not actively try to identify those accounts for two decades, and did not transfer the heirless assets (located at that time) to refugee organizations - including the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee - until the 1970s. In another effort in 1996, the Swiss Bankers Association said it had identified \$32 million in heirless Holocaust-era assets. (It was the brouhaha over the dormant bank accounts that escalated into the expanded, international scrutiny of Swiss-Nazi dealings.)

Of the other neutrals, Sweden was the most cooperative in liquidating the German assets it had. Negotiations with Spain and Portugal were protracted and yielded little. Turkey and Argentina paid nothing in gold or assets.

### THE AMERICANS

"It is fair to conclude that on the Nazi gold ... issues addressed by this report, the role of the US was also positive," the report stated. The US took the lead in economic warfare against the Reich, and tracked the flow of Nazi assets to prevent any Nazi resurgence after the war. It led the effort to get compensation for states and individuals victimized by the Nazis. The US also "led the magnanimous effort to rebuild post-war Europe through the landmark Marshall Plan." Although it had bars on immigration, it was "the most active in addressing the plight of the refugees, initiating the proposal in the Paris Reparation Conference to assure some share of reparations went to the victims of Nazism," the report said. The US also provided substantial funds for displaced persons and for the resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees.

Nonetheless, there were "serious shortcomings" in US and Allied policy. In the US, there was a demonstrable lack of senior-level support for a tough US negotiating position with the neutrals, and a greater lack of attention to ensuring implementation of negotiated agreements. The US unblocked Swiss assets in the US soon after the 1946 Accord, losing most leverage before Switzerland had met its obligations. Neither the US nor the Allies pressed the neutrals hard enough to fulfill their moral obligation to help Holocaust survivors by redistributing heirless assets for their benefit.

Had the Allied leadership shown greater support and interest, it might have been possible to strike a better bargain on the looted gold and other German assets with the neutral countries, the report said. Also, disputes between the Allies made it easier for the neutrals to drag out negotiations, which delayed the transfer of funds for refugee relief.

The inadequacies of US post-war policy are related to "unrelenting opposition" from the neutral countries and the splits within the Allied ranks. The US was the most

aggressive in seeking compensation for the refugees, but met resistance from Britain, which, according to US officials at the time, feared that providing funds for refugee resettlement would conflict with its restrictions on Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Further, nations' interests changed with the times. The wartime objectives were replaced by the need to rebuild Europe, the problems of the Cold War and the desire to strengthen West Germany.

The new democratic West Germany had war-era debts to the neutrals, and the Allies were concerned about the broader European recovery efforts. The Allies knew that German efforts to meet their obligation to the neutral countries would strain their economy. In the case of Portugal, the American interest in getting access to the Azores air base led negotiators to settle for a token payment. Security interests became paramount with Turkey, a key NATO ally. Switzerland, though neutral, was seen officially in a 1951 decision by president Harry Truman as a democratic deterrent to Soviet expansionism.

### THE VICTIMS' GOLD

There was "co-mingling of gold," and the victims' gold may have been sent to the neutrals or to the Tripartite Gold Commission's "gold pool," which was destined as restitution to the raided European central banks. The Reichsbank or its agents smelted gold taken from concentration-camp internees, persecutees and other civilians, and turned it into ingots.

There is "clear evidence" that these ingots were incorporated into Germany's official gold reserves, along with the gold confiscated from central banks. This is significant because the victims' gold - the so-called non-monetary gold - was to be used to benefit survivors and refugees, not to be distributed to the European banks.

The report refers to the steps taken by the US and the Allies to make assets available for assistance to stateless victims of Nazi atrocities as "initially valiant, but ultimately inadequate." There is no evidence that Switzerland or other neutral countries knowingly accepted victims' gold, but there is "clear evidence" that at least a small portion of the gold that entered Switzerland and Italy included gold from civilians in occupied countries and from Nazi victims.

Eighteen states had decided at the 1946 Paris Reparations Conference to leave assistance and reparations for individual victims to national governments and international relief agencies. "In hindsight, [this] had unfortunate consequences": inequities developed in the treatment of victims depending upon where they lived after the war. Survivors who emigrated to the West or to Israel received pensions from the German government, but the "double victims," those trapped behind the Iron Curtain after the war, have essentially received nothing.

Also, the report said, most governments did not have a long-term commitment to refugee rehabilitation, to search for heirs of abandoned assets, or to distribute heirless assets for appropriate causes. The burden of providing ongoing relief for surviving victims was left largely to private organizations.

The US report suggested that a "significant" portion of the Tripartite Commission's residual gold should be given to the survivors, especially the "double victims" in Europe who survived Nazism and communism. "For the victims, justice remains elusive," the report said. "Their grievances must be seen as the appropriate responsibility of the entire international community on behalf of humanity."

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כלוא מן האצול

MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

While witnessing Britain's political turnaround, Israelis of all political stripes felt a mixture of admiration, jealousy and astonishment. The select few who constitute our floating vote are full of awe; not only because Britain's has proven, yet again, to be a mature electorate that knows when to cast a decisive vote at the right time, but also because it is one which, rather than waste its precious ballots on banal statements of sectarian identity, is actually prepared to occasionally shift its choice from right to left and vice versa.

Our very own New Labor

of this sorry nation, namely the one which voted for Shimon Peres, is left bewildered at the sight of John Major's dignified, immediate and unequivocal resignation. Not only Labor voters, but all Israelis, deserve better than a five-time loser's insistence to stick around rather than retire and assume the respectable role of elder statesman.

ma, the man who in his late twenties was director-general of the Defense Ministry, and later successively held the communications, transport, defense, foreign and finance portfolios, besides of course the titles of prime minister and head of the opposition, now thinks he cannot subsist without some kind of office. If he were to barter the dawn of a New Labor, he would do now just what he himself and the Rafi faction he helped create in the '60s demanded from the old Mapai mandarins, namely to clear the stage for a new generation of leaders.

INDEED, the problem with Barak is that he lacks a domestic agenda, let alone a gospel. Tony Blair and New Labor not only turned their back on Old Labor's anti-economics, but are also privileged to inherit an economy which Blair's two predecessors had largely disinfected from the germs of postwar stagflation.

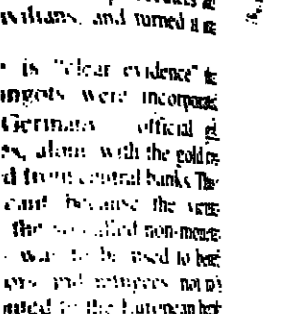
Barak, by contrast, is bound - if elected - to not only inherit an economy which has yet to undergo much of the asset stripping, budget cuts and tax reductions which the UK experienced under the Tories, but in fact has adopted as his shadow treasurer Avraham Shohat, one of Israel's arch-statists.

Israel, it is inconceivable that those include the kind of self-righteous propaganda Barak, Beilin and Peres have been spreading in the wake of the Bar-On Affair. Most Israelis make no distinction between Netanyahu's scandalous choice for attorney-general on the one hand, and Labor's shady deals with Alex Goldfarb and Gonen Segev in 1995, or with Aryeh Deri in 1990, on the other.

VICTIMS' GOLD

was "comingling" of and the victims' gold sent to the neurotic nations' Gold Commission "gold," which was demitted to the bank of a central bank to bank of its agents' meanness, persecutes at widows, and turned it

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Even if the Jews are all engaged in idolatry - so long as they are in harmony with each other, Satan cannot harm them. They themselves cannot stand up to them. Bereshit Rabba 38:6, Bemidbar Rabba 11:7 - a rascally and unwise people. Moses, Deuteronomy 32:6

The 'one people' fiction

tribe of Judah into the raging waters of the Red Sea on our way out of Egypt (Sofer 36a). We were also one at that moment when, with God leading Mount Sinai over our heads and threatening to bury us under it, we pledged in unison, "We shall do and we shall listen!" (Shabbat 88a).

one-peoplehood in biblical antiquity was the period of David's United Kingdom of Israel, continuing into his son Solomon's reign. But Solomon sowed the seeds of discontent, and right after he died the nation split into the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah.

lars the scattered Jewish communities spoke or read respectively, they were all at home to some degree or other in the Jewish people's vernacular, leshon hakodesh/the tongue of holiness, Hebrew. Hence a Jew from, say, medieval Germany landing in Seville, Baghdad, Kaifeng or Rangoon could converse with fellow Jews there, and join them in a prayer minyan using their prayer book or in a Torah-study group.

Hebrew, and bearing even more than that many styles of life, dress, eating, prayer, etc. Now, all at once, questions were raised about the Jewishness of some communities, heretofore regarded longingly from afar as some of the "Ten Lost Tribes."

SHABBAT SHALOM



Parasha: Kedoshim

By SHLOMO RISKIN

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am God." (Lev 19:18) What is the most important of all the verses in the Torah? Ordinarily, one would respond that all the verses are equally important, each letter authored by God Himself. But, given the tendency to search for an overarching principle which might serve as the quintessence of the Torah, the verse we have just cited is far and away the leading candidate.

Love thy neighbor as thyself

verse is a classic representative of the laws regulating behavior among human beings. However, doesn't a good part of the Torah concern itself with ritual law, the realm between people and God? What did Hillel mean by: "All the rest is commentary?" Is the Shabbat commentary? Is Pesach commentary? Are the laws of family purity commentary?

two parts of an entity which is broken if and when the relationship becomes impaired. This idea can be best understood by means of a Hassidic tale about two "soul mates" who studied together - and indeed lived together - for years. Finally, the day arrived when they had to leave the academy and therefore separate. They each emy and therefore separate. They each decided to leave a memento with the other, a photograph. But instead of simply exchanging photos, they tore their portraits in half, so that each was left with two halves of two photos. They understood that, separated, they were at best only half of a whole; and indeed, each of us is only a piece of the whole of Israel, the united organism of the Jewish nation.

Midrash comments that as long as Amalek (the disruptive power of evil) is in the world, God's name and God's throne are incompatible (Rashi at the end of the portion of Beshalah). But the lofty ideal just expressed need not be limited to a mystical understanding. Rabbi Akiva taught that loving one's neighbor as oneself is a great principle of Torah - and perhaps Rabbi Akiva truly understood the depth of this message when he experienced the death of his 24,000 disciples because they did not respect each other sufficiently.

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THE WEEK THAT WAS

# A switch of political hats



Netanyahu posed in an F-15 plane... (Israel Sun)



...while Weizman piloted talks with Arafat. (David Rubinger)

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

What is this crisis about? A puzzled and weary King Hussein asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week after a joint Israel-Jordan ceremony at Naharayim was canceled.

"I have no idea," said Bibi. "Maybe you know?" On the day the "crisis" erupted, Netanyahu was in the middle of photo-op of the week - kitted out as a fighter pilot at some air base and making optimistic statements about progress in relations between Israel and the Arabs in the coming year.

While Netanyahu posed in and out of an F-15 plane, oblivious to

any crisis or the backwards progress in relations with Jordan, the former real pilot, President Ezer Weizman, was pretending to be prime minister and meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to play at reviving the peace process.

Arafat reportedly refuses to meet Netanyahu, whom he does not trust, but has no hesitation meeting Weizman, whom he respects.

Meanwhile, Labor's Yossi Beilin (who recently met Arafat) was getting red-carpet treatment in Amman from Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan. The prince and other Jordanian officials had canceled the meeting with Netanyahu in Naharayim that same day.

Inevitably, someone - in this case

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid - was bound to suggest that Netanyahu and Weizman trade places. Weizman could then save the peace process and Netanyahu could do the frothy and ceremonial stuff - like skiing, or being flown in F-15s.

### UGLY ISRAEL

Ma'ariv gave a huge headline, "The ugly Israeli," to a large photograph of a haredi family holding its Pessah mangal (that's holiday barbecue to you newcomers) on top of the Ammunition Hill memorial to the 183 warriors who fell in the battle for Jerusalem in the Six Day War.

Shocked visitors to the memorial were given a sneering response when they asked the family to move to another mangal site.

One griller said it was more convenient to fan the flames for the coals on the memorial sculpture. "If we take the mangal off we'll have to bend down, and then our backs will hurt," he whined.

Try to imagine the outrage if someone tried to grill some hot dogs at the Vietnam memorial in Washington.

While this family was pointedly demonstrating its "respect" for Israel's fallen heroes, nothing less than a crowd was showing their regard for the memory of Holocaust victims with a rowdy and illegal demonstration in Bnei Brak.



Yehimovitz tried to get a word in edgewise... (IDF Spokesman)

It was ostensibly to support Shas leader Aryeh Deri - on the eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

"Pity they didn't wipe out all the Ashkenazim in the Holocaust," they shouted, yelling "Nazis" at the Israeli police.

To journalists they "explained" they were merely protesting against the attorney-general's decision to indict Deri, the only Sephardi among the four who were investigated in the Bar-On affair, while "the others" were let off the hook.

Dan Police Commander Eli Arazi said the demonstration was organized by Shas leaders, who posted notices all over town calling on



...while Hanegbi gave her a tongue-lashing. (Brian Hendler)

everyone to attend.

The notices asserted the demonstration was legal, but it wasn't, Arazi said.

Shas leaders later denied having anything to do with the demonstration. They said it was organized by "riffraff." Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said "the organizer was an 18-year-old from Bnei Brak whom I don't know personally and whose name I have forgotten."

### MEDIA PORTION

The weekly portion of media scandal was provided by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and talk show host Shelly Yehimovitz on Israel Radio's *Hakol Diburim* ("It's All Talk").

In a sharp verbal clash, Hanegbi told Yehimovitz she should suspend herself and accused her of trying to topple the government.

Yehimovitz tried vainly to insert questions into Hanegbi's lengthening statements. The minister, bent on lecturing the airwaves undisturbed, became more and more irritated.

Israel Radio staff noted that Hanegbi was trying to follow the lead of Netanyahu, who prefers to broadcast directly "to the nation" without the tiresome intervention of pesky journalists' questions.

Yehimovitz asked Hanegbi if he should not suspend himself, in view of the impropriety of his sitting on what she termed the committee to appoint judges. The committee is next week due to discuss appeals to the High Court to indict Hanegbi for the Bar-On Affair.

"I'll suspend myself when you suspend yourself," he snapped. "You've proved yourself to be an interested party in recent months by your personal intervention in the [Bar-On] Affair. I expect you to suspend yourself and stop acting like you own the only microphone in the state."

Yehimovitz: "The police haven't investigated any affairs connected with me, neither has any damning report been published by the State Attorney about my conduct."

Hanegbi: "You should have suspended yourself a long time ago because you don't function like someone objective, but use public broadcasting to strike at this government and topple it."

MK Shaul Yahalom, chairman of the Knesset's Constitution Committee, was on the same line throughout, but every time he began answering a question from Yehimovitz, he was shouted down by Hanegbi.

### GRAPEVINE

# To his health

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Feeling unwell during a vacation in London, US Ambassador Martin Indyk consulted a doctor who immediately ordered him to spend a week in bed. Indyk preferred a familiar bed and returned to Israel on Sunday. On Monday, he was unable to greet some 70 guests who came to his home in Herzliya Pituah for a chamber-music recital dedicated to the martyrs of the Holocaust. His wife, aided by senior embassy staffers, did the honors. Among those attending were sculptress Ilana Goor, retired Supreme Court judge Gavriel Bach and socialites Naomi Cherpak and Daniella Oren. Hopefully Indyk will be back on his feet by Independence Day in order to attend the traditional Beit Hanassi reception hosted by President Ezer Weizman.

makers included artist and well-known equestrian Sally Ariel, former diplomat and currently head of the umbrella body of voluntary organizations Esther Hertzit, and Elise Einhorn, a board member of the International Women's Club.

MEMBERS OF the Vester family, whose forebears were among the founders of Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel, came en masse for the celebrations marking the union between the hotel



Alexander Bovin is making farewell rounds. (I.P.P.A.)

ONE SHOULD always look one's best regardless of the circumstances. That seems to be the motto of Bella Weinstock, former head of the police internal investigations division, who wore a smart black bowler hat when she was released this week from London's Holloway Prison after relatives and friends put up £100,000 to bail her out. Weinstock was detained for 12 days on the grounds that she and a fellow Israeli allegedly concocted a scam to cheat British banks out of millions.

OUTGOING RUSSIAN ambassador Alexander Bovin is making his farewell rounds before winding up his five-and-a-half-year term of office. Bovin, who came here in December 1991 as the last appointed ambassador of the Soviet Union, then found himself becoming Russian ambassador a week after presenting his credentials. This week, he called on Foreign Minister David Levy who said that he hoped that Bovin would come back to visit. Bovin replied that he had good reason to do so. He's leaving behind 40 kilograms of weight that he shed here.



'Dybbuk' star Orna Porat

THE FEDERAL Republic of Yugoslavia has not as yet appointed an ambassador to Israel, but that doesn't mean that Yugoslavian Constitution Day should be ignored. Yugoslavian Chargé d'Affaires Mirko Stefanovic and his wife Ljiljana celebrated their national holiday by hosting a reception in the courtyard of Gan Oranim where merry-

THE CAST of *The Dybbuk* got together last week at Tel Aviv's old port to celebrate the completion of shooting. Directed by Yossi Soffer, the film, a Swiss-Israeli-German co-production which took seven weeks to make, will be released in tandem with the 50th birthday celebrations of the state. Orna Porat, Moshe Ivgy, Yehzekiel Lazarov and Ayelet Zurer star.

DIPLOMATS WHO early in their careers were given careful lessons about handling the flatware and glassware on the table could happily relax at the 25th birthday celebrations of Rahat, the Beduin township in the Negev. Over 50 diplomats and socialites - amongst them Nagwa Bassiouny, wife of the Egyptian ambassador, and sculptress Malka Rosenstein - happily used their fingers rather than knives, forks and spoons to eat their way through five lambs, specially slaughtered for the occasion, 50 kilos of rice and 10 kilos of hummus. Of course there were plenty of Beduin around to eat the leftovers.

MUTUAL ATTRACTION has no age limits. The latest man in the life of 51-year-old Liza Minnelli is a 24-year-old hotel doorman.

**SRULIK** by DOSH

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

- 6 Just thinking about going blonde? (4-6)
- 8 Hold back, but take a cautious look (4)
- 9 Sale doing badly, close (9)
- 11 Steps in extremities (4)
- 12 Step-fathers! (3)
- 13 A little dog is put first—the last thing wanted (9)
- 16 The Russian's single means of moving goods (4)
- 17 Grating as coppers being allowed into 3 (7)
- 18 Turns aside, and this causes amusement (7)
- 20 An employer—sure to be (4)
- 21 A soldier without military personnel transport (9)
- 23 A woman in a sort of loose robe (3)
- 24 Possibly set about young beginner making complaint (4)
- 25 Get a salesman on edge and get a telling-off! (9)
- 29 Behind with the letters? (4)
- 30 Order given when the ratings collapsed (10)

DOWN

- 1 Laughing at a depressed fence (4)
- 2 An old ship with an incomplete load (4)
- 3 A sound item of jewellery (4)
- 4 Approves of publicity about a boggy area (7)
- 5 The top man's there, mad as can be (10)
- 7 Making a profound improvement (9)
- 8 The chief executive quietly staying in (9)
- 10 Some juveniles want for nothing (3)
- 13 Passing trains on it may be diverted (10)
- 14 Not in good shape—so tense (9)
- 15 Longs to include article favouring protective wear (9)
- 19 How to cook small sea fish (4-3)
- 22 He survived the deluge, being a bit of a pig (3)
- 26 A river, goddess (4)
- 27 Each break can hurt (4)
- 28 Reduced fare for politicians (4)

**SOLUTIONS**

ACROSS: 6 Frank, 8 Einstein, 9 Spoof, 10 Antenna, 11 Litha, 14 See, 16 Mishap, 17 Levity, 18 Ask, 20 Sorry, 24 Francise, 25 Torah, 28 Apologia, 29 Odeur.

DOWN: 1 Regal, 2 Uaiy, 3 Stunt, 4 Tirade, 5 Reprieve, 7 Neophyte, 12 Timorous, 13 Shortage, 14 Spa, 16 Elk, 19 Seraph, 21 Scale, 22 Forge, 23 Peril.

**QUICK CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

- 1 Hypnotic state (6)
- 4 Deed (6)
- 7 Accumulate (9)
- 9 Head (4)
- 10 Way out (4)
- 11 Small fish (5)
- 13 Clatter (6)
- 14 Wanderer (6)
- 15 Examiner (6)
- 17 Unproductive (6)
- 19 Danger (5)
- 20 Scottish dance (4)
- 22 Press (4)
- 23 Essential (9)
- 24 Gun (6)
- 25 Shellfish (6)

DOWN

- 1 Meedle (6)
- 2 Paper money (4)
- 3 Get away (6)
- 4 Seem (6)
- 5 Story (4)
- 6 Heavenly drink (6)
- 7 Political leaders (9)
- 8 Model (9)
- 11 Slumber (5)
- 12 Sum (5)
- 15 Root vegetable (6)
- 16 Disclose (6)
- 17 Flop (6)
- 18 Cold season (6)
- 21 Advanced (4)
- 22 Irritate (4)

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, May 9, 1997

## BUSINESS

in brief

### Teva income up 68% in first quarter

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. reported first-quarter net income rose 68 percent, boosted for a second straight quarter by sales of two newer products: an epilepsy drug and ulcer medication. First quarter net rose to \$31.5 million or 51 cents a share, up from \$18.7m. or 30 cents a share, at the same point last year. Sales grew 22% to \$267.6m. from \$220.1m. Half of the company's sales came from North America and some 71% of all sales from outside Israel. *Bloomberg*

### Palestinian bank opens tomorrow

The Palestine International Bank will officially open tomorrow, offering what it describes as "a comprehensive range of first-class, international banking services in the region." The bank is headed by chairman Issam Abdul Salam M. Abu Issa, supported by vice-chairman Yahya Omran Karara. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will attend the opening ceremony in Al Bira, near Ramallah. *David Harris*

### MK to ask for debate on local authorities

Knesset Labor faction head Ra'anan Cohen yesterday told the Union of Local Authorities he will attempt to launch a parliamentary debate on the "catastrophic" financial situation of local government. The union is staging a vigil outside the Prime Minister's Office to demonstrate its objection to Treasury plans to prevent pay excesses in the public sector. *David Harris*

### Gokal must pay for conspiracy in BCCI fraud

A British court yesterday ordered Abbas Gokal, former head of the biggest single borrower from the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), to pay £2.94 million (\$4.8 million) for conspiring to account falsely and to defraud. The court ruled that if Gokal failed to pay the fine, he would be ordered to serve three years in prison. Gokal faces a maximum prison sentence of 17 years. He is the fifth person to be convicted for his part in the biggest known banking fraud. *Reuters*

# Leumi 20% share offering set for this month

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the sale of up to 20 percent of Bank Leumi's shares, to be floated in Tel Aviv, London, and possibly other European locations, before the end of this month. The recommendation was unanimously supported by MKs and received a warm welcome from workers' representatives. The proportion of shares floated in each of the various markets will be determined by the markets. A joint Treasury-MI Holdings-Leumi team is scheduled to return to Israel today from a road show it held this week in Europe, in an attempt to

ascertain the extent of demand for the shares.

A minimum of 10% must be sold, with the ceiling set at 20%. Receipts are expected to total NIS 750 million to NIS 1.5 billion. Currently the government holds 82% of Leumi shares with the remainder already in the public domain. The price for the sale will be fixed in accordance with the value of shares already floated.

Abroad, institutional investors will be given the first right of refusal to purchase shares, which will be sold in London and on other European bourses. There, the flotation will be managed by Merrill Lynch and Lehman Bros.

Accountant-General Shai Talmon, who will decide the exact amounts to be floated and on which markets, would not discuss the next stage in the bank's privatization.

"I will not discuss this issue now, because the Finance Committee did not relate to it today," said Talmon. "What I will say is that in the official government privatization plan for 1997 there are no expectations for a further sale of Leumi shares."

However, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's economic adviser Moshe Leon said yesterday that he and other relevant government officials are looking at a possible further sale of Leumi shares this

year, probably by finding a buyer for the controlling interest. But he would not rule out the possibility of another flotation.

This is in addition to the expected sale of the controlling stake in Bank Hapoalim.

"We are very happy with the planned flotations," said Bank Leumi workers' council head Shlomo Yifrach. "However, we are strongly opposed to the sale of the controlling shares. We do not want the bank to fall into the hands of an individual or group, but rather remain with the public."

Workers will be given the option to purchase 10% of shares floated, at a 25% discount. The bank employs 8,250 people.



### Betting on a big profit

Spectators watch the fireworks at the opening of the Crown Casino in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday on the banks of the Yarra River. The casino, the largest in Asia and Australia, is valued by analysts at \$1.56 billion. It has 2,500 slot machines and 350 gambling tables. Revenue projections put the first year's take at \$750 million. *(Reuters)*

## A-G okays insurance bosses' removal

By DAVID HARRIS

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubenstein has given the Treasury the go ahead to commence proceedings to remove the senior insurance managers convicted in March of price-fixing and other illegal activities.

Action to remove the cartelists will begin immediately after Independence Day, Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef said last night.

During a meeting with Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer, Rubenstein told him he is of the opinion the action can be taken under section 18 of the Supervision of Insurance Companies Law.

Shorer had been waiting for the green light to forcibly remove the managers, in an attempt to clean up the industry.

Shorer also received the backing of State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, whose annual report, which was published on Wednesday, was highly critical of the managers.

The Treasury's legal department also maintains it is within Shorer's rights to push ahead with the technical change required.

In order to remove the executives, whom, apart from one, have so far failed to stand down, Shorer will have to alter the conditions required for an insurer's license.

Shorer has become all the more determined to fight the cartelists, because in the main they have the backing of their senior company colleagues.

Jerusalem District Court Judge Yanatan Adiel convicted six insurance companies, 11 of their managers and the Association of Insurance Companies of creating an illegal cartel in 1991 and 1992.

The six companies convicted, as part of a plea bargain arrangement, are Migdal, Cial Insurance, Hamagen, Sahar, Zion and Menorah.

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The Israel Electric Corporation and its employees wish the whole House of Israel a happy holiday

## Strauss-Elite to sell excess Reshet stake

By AVIVA KRULL

The sale of Strauss's excess shares in Reshet, the Channel 2 television franchisee, will be completed by the end of May or the beginning of June, Reshet CEO Tzadik Bino said yesterday. Reshet is owned by Yediot Media (24%), Poalim Investments (24%), Elite (21%), Tzadik Bino (17%), and Strauss

(14%). According to the Second Channel Law, a single holding in a broadcast company must be limited 30% of a franchisee's shares, and shareholders who are owners of other communications media may hold only up to 24%. With the acquisition of Elite, Strauss holds 35%, and must sell 5% of the voting shares and 3% of the capital shares. According to the agreement

among Reshet's shareholders, the seller can accept an offer from a third party who is not currently a shareholder. The shareholders have the right of first refusal, and also have 60 days in which to make up their minds.

Given the present distribution of shares among the existing partners, the only ones who can purchase the shares are Poalim Investments and Tzadik Bino.

There is speculation in the industry that Reshet general manager Dan Shilon is likely to buy the shares, which would arouse fierce opposition from Yediot media owner Arnon Moses.

Shilon, however, denied flatly he has any intentions of buying the shares at stake. "No one has offered me them, and I'm not interested," he said.

Poalim Investments deputy general manager Roni Harel said in an interview that at this stage there are no contacts over the matter with Strauss. *Globes*

## Heineken resumes Tempo bid

By ORNA RAWV / Globes and Jerusalem Post Staff

Tempo Beer Industries minority shareholder Moshe Podhorzer has agreed to resume negotiations over the sale of his holdings in the Netanya-based beverage producer to Dutch brewer

Heineken, which seeks to take over Tempo. Podhorzer's consent came at the end of a protracted meeting between Heineken representatives, who arrived in Tel Aviv from Holland, and Tempo majority shareholder Jack Beer.

At the end of the meeting, Heineken's representatives said they were still interested in Tempo, and that all sides had agreed to work towards the share acquisition.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	4.250	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	3.625	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.5.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rate
Currency basket	3.6521	3.7111	3.32	3.8940
U.S. dollar	3.3783	3.4328	3.22	3.4930
German mark	1.9808	1.9825	1.92	1.9881
Pound sterling	5.5129	5.6019	5.41	5.3209
French franc	0.5810	0.5954	0.57	0.5939
Japanese yen (100)	2.6887	2.7382	2.64	2.7444
Dutch guilder	1.7484	1.7718	1.71	1.7655
Swiss franc	2.3114	2.3487	2.27	2.3493
Swedish krona	0.4380	0.4431	0.42	0.4408
Norwegian krona	0.4742	0.4819	0.46	0.4789
Danish krona	0.5149	0.5233	0.50	0.5216
Finnish mark	0.6510	0.6616	0.63	0.6395
Canadian dollar	2.4487	2.4888	2.40	2.4812
Australian dollar	2.6218	2.6639	2.57	2.6487
S. African rand	0.7586	0.7708	0.68	0.7810
Belgian franc (10)	0.9304	0.9628	0.93	0.9621
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7887	2.8317	2.73	2.8218
Italian lire (1000)	1.9510	2.0130	1.94	2.0088
Jordanian dinar	4.7548	4.8417	4.70	4.8489
Egyptian pound	0.8600	1.0500	0.96	1.0378
EU	3.8247	3.8884	3.70	3.8630
Irish punt	5.0927	5.1749	5.00	5.1448
Spanish peseta (100)	2.8227	2.8662	2.82	2.8625

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
 SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York, including AMEX and NASDAQ indices and individual stock prices.

Table listing Israeli shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing Israeli shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing Israeli shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

MISHTANIM

Table listing Mishtanim index components with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing Mishtanim index components with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing Mishtanim index components with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing Mishtanim index components with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Large table listing international shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing international shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing international shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Table listing international shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

TASE ROUNDUP

Teva boosts indexes. Mishtanim 259.72 ▲ 0.43%. Maof 268.47 ▲ +0.55%.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Shares closed slightly higher yesterday, recovering early losses by a rise led by shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Trava...

The benchmark Mishtanim

index of the top 100 shares rose 0.43 percent, or 1.11 points, to 259.72 on an all-share turnover of NIS 118 million against NIS 93 million Wednesday.

The Maof 25 blue chip index

closed 0.55% higher at 268.47.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing key representative rates for US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table listing New York market indexes such as DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table listing other market indexes like FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table listing dollar crossrates for various currencies.

US COMMODITIES

Table listing US commodities like Cocoa, Sugar, etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table listing London commodities like Brent oil, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table listing spot market metals like Gold, Silver, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table listing New York metal futures like Gold, Silver, etc.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table listing London metal fixes like Gold, Silver, etc.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

ABA COMPUTER SYSTEMS LIMITED. Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Tel Aviv shares data

supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by CommStock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963.

PARIS

Table listing Paris market data.

FRANKFURT

Table listing Frankfurt market data.

Source: S&P COMSTOCK

(DATE 9-5-97)

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

London sets record

LONDON (Reuters) - The United Kingdom's FTSE 100 index leapt to its fifth consecutive record close yesterday, inspired by gains on Wall Street, despite a sterling related profit warning from Britain's biggest industrial conglomerate.

The last couple of days we have seen a few profit warnings and downgrades in some pretty significant stocks."

The FTSE 100 closed up 42.9 points at an all-time record high of 4,580.4, after being down around 20 points at its worst.

FRANKFURT - The German share market was closed for the Ascension Day holiday. Regular trading will resume today. On Wednesday the blue chip DAX index eased to close the bourse session down 16.30 points at 3,551.98 points.

PARIS - The French share market also was closed. On Wednesday the blue-chip CAC-40 index closed down 8.62 points at 2,643.31.

ZURICH - Swiss shares were closed for the holiday. On Wednesday the all-share Swiss Performance Index closed up 16.51 points to 3,167.28.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended nearly flat after the key index teetered around the 20,000 barrier for most of the session. Brokers said the market was weighed down by profit-taking, but gained support from purchases of laggard issues, mainly by foreign investors. The 225-share Nikkei average was 12,911 points higher at 20,061.81.

HONG KONG - A late rally pushed Hong Kong stocks to a sharply higher close, bolstered by a surge in Hong Kong Telecom as investors speculated on a deal with a Chinese partner and welcomed the firm's annual earnings. The Hang Seng index rose 134.39 points to 13,740.30, wiping out an early loss of 158.43 points.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market fell, but remained above the key psychological level of 2,500 despite market leader BHP going ex-dividend and Wednesday's drop on Wall Street. The market was also depressed by the tumble in ICI Australia shares, which fell almost 10%, after news its British parent ICI planned to sell its A\$2 billion (NIS 5 billion) holding in the chemical group. The All Ordinaries index ended 12.9 points lower at 2,504.7.

JOHANNESBURG - South African industrial shares recovered some morning losses to end flat, lifted by local fund buying towards the close while gold shares ended firm on a weaker rand and as bullion headed near the \$344 level. Industrial shares ended the day flat but off their worst levels after starting soft on a weaker Wall Street. Dealers said volume traded was generally light save for the top six shares, which included construction group Murray and Roberts Holdings.

The gold index ended up 24.8 points to 1,214.1 points. The industrial index lost 6.2 points to 8,497.4 points and the overall index ended up 2.2 points to 7,162.9 points.

WALL STREET REPORT

Capital gains tax-cut plans boost Dow

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed higher yesterday as Wall Street traders put a positive spin on plans to lower the capital gains tax rate.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 50.97 points at 7,136.62, as it recaptured part of Wednesday's 140-point plunge.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a margin of 14-to-10 in heavy volume of 537 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

SUNBIRDS and MOONFLOWERS - and other Nature Notes. This is a very nicely produced collection of articles by Dvora Ben Shaul, which appeared over the years in The Jerusalem Post.

PACIFIC MED INVESTMENTS

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Tel. 02-624-4963.

critics of the Government are on trial for enthu...

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# Shahak: No doubt IDF could beat Syria

## But chief of staff warns more funds needed

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

On the eve of the Independence Day weekend, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said that despite the critical State Comptroller's Report, the IDF is in good shape. But he warned that unless the defense budget is drastically increased the IDF will have trouble meeting future threats.

In his first reaction to the report, Shahak said more money is needed to correct the situation in the IDF's emergency warehouses and replenish supplies. However, he said the deficiencies would not prevent Israel from winning any future war.

A confident Shahak told military

reporters that he had no doubt the IDF could defeat the Syrian army if war broke out.

"The IDF is much stronger than the Syrian army and we are growing in strength every year," Shahak said. "We will be victorious in any war against [Syria]. But there are steps we have to take to meet the threats, such as their surface-to-surface missiles and improvements in their artillery."

"The budget, however, is significant regarding the duration of the war and even the number of losses we are willing to take. We need to invest more to reduce these losses and more quickly defeat them [the Syrians]."

Shahak said NIS 1 billion was diverted last year to replenish supplies in light of assessments that there was a greater feasibility that fighting could break out with Syria. "But if there won't be a significant increase in the [IDF] budget we'll have to rethink our planning," Shahak said. "We can't let off lots of people. The running costs can't be lowered for an

extended period. We can't cut security costs in south Lebanon and we can't make any major changes in the level of supplies."

"It's like using blocks to plug a leak. You remove one to plug a hole, but then you open another," Shahak said.

Regarding the poor training of standing units like the Golani Brigade, Shahak dismissed the comptroller's criticism, saying that the level sought is an optimum, but that current training levels are also good. He said that while the IDF does not have a surplus of combat soldiers, the existing units are full. He also said that the number of fighting units should not be reduced.

"Quite the contrary. I'd be happy to see a larger buildup of forces," Shahak said.

Asked whether he would seek to extend his term as chief of staff for a fourth year, or retire next year, Shahak said he had not yet decided. He also said that a reshuffle of the General Staff is not expected in the near future.



**Honoring the fallen**  
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu prepares to lay a wreath last night at Jerusalem's Yad Lebanim, during a ceremony held in advance of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars.

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# Remembrance Day marks death of 18,538

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

On Saturday night the nation bows its head to mark the 18,538 who have fallen in battle and terrorism since Israel's founding 49 years ago. This year's ceremonies will be held at the fresh graves of 73 servicemen who were killed in the helicopter collision last February on their way to Lebanon - the worst single accident in the history of the IDF.

Remembrance Day begins at 10 p.m. tomorrow night with the ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. President Ezer Weizman and Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak are to speak at the ceremony.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai sent a letter to bereaved families: "The list of those who have fallen is long. Each one was a world unto himself and the best among us."

"We saw this before our very eyes with the terrible helicopter tragedy in which we lost 73 of the best fighters. We also lost soldiers in actions in Lebanon and in the defense of the

state, in the fight against terror and in the continuing actions to strengthen our army.

"As we approach the jubilee of our independence, we look full of hope, for progress in the peace process with our neighbors," Mordechai wrote. "But we also know that all our strength will be needed for many years to come in order to advance toward this peace, or God forbid, to stand against possible threats and defeat them."

On Sunday, the main Remembrance Day ceremony will take place at Mt. Herzl, simultaneously with ceremonies at 40 military cemeteries around the country. The IDF's memorial unit plans to place flowers on every military grave, while Bnei Akiva youth are to place memorial candles on military tombstones and youth from the Noar Ve'haoved Ve'balomed movement are to hand out flowers at the gates of all military cemeteries.

This year, the Defense Ministry said, there are 74,187 disabled veterans.

# Hizbullah attacks continue

By DAVID RIDGE

Hizbullah gunmen launched a series of attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army troops and positions in the security zone yesterday.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in any of the incidents yesterday, which followed the conclusion of another lengthy meeting of the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group.

The five-nation monitoring committee completed its discussions, which began Wednesday afternoon, at 3 a.m. yesterday regarding complaints by Israel and Lebanon over recent incidents in south Lebanon in which civilians were killed and wounded.

The Israeli complaint related to an incident earlier this week in which Hizbullah gunmen planted and detonated two explosive devices in a shop in a village near Marjayoun township. Four civilians and three SLA soldiers were wounded in the explosions.

The complaint by Lebanon was over roadside bombs which had been disguised as rocks and which had been planted by the side of the road near Nabatiya township, north of the security zone. The devices exploded, killing two civilians and injuring a man and his wife who were in a car nearby.

The IDF Spokesman issued a statement at the conclusion of the monitoring group meeting saying that the committee had determined that the planting of explosive devices in villages was a violation of the understandings reached at the end of the cross-border fighting last April.

The fighting yesterday broke out in the afternoon, when Hizbullah gunmen fired several mortar rounds at IDF troops on operational duties in the zone's eastern sector. At the same time, mortars were fired at a nearby SLA position.

Later, mortars were fired at a SLA outpost in the zone's western sector, prompting return fire from IDF gunners. There were further exchanges in the evening when mortars were fired at another SLA position in the zone's eastern sector.

# Fog cause of multiple accidents in North

By RAIME MARCUS, DAVID RIDGE, and Haim

Twenty-eight people were injured - three of them seriously - in a series of accidents, under foggy conditions, on the Haifa-Nazareth road early yesterday morning.

Twenty-one people were injured in one of the incidents, which involved nine vehicles, including trucks and vans, near Bir al-Makzur village.

The pileup occurred around 6:30 a.m., following two other accidents, in which seven other people were injured, on the same stretch of road. The injured were taken in a fleet of ambulances to hospitals in the region.

Adi Ben-Simon, who was caught in the traffic jam resulting from the chain accident, said there had been heavy fog in the area at the time.

"I saw a lot of people injured and shouting. One of the small trucks ran into the back of the semitrailer and I saw people inside trying to get out," he said.

The road is one of the highways on which police have beefed up their presence and are using advanced technology to try to reduce accidents as part of Project 700.

Police stressed, however, that yesterday's accidents were primarily a result of the foggy conditions.

In another accident yesterday evening, a 50-year-old man was hit by a train on the northern outskirts of Haifa and was killed at the scene, police reported. In Rehovot, a 33-year-old Rafiah man was hit by a bus and seriously injured while crossing a street between parked cars near the city's Kaplan Hospital. Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Though 11 people were killed in traffic accidents this past week, police defended Project 700, which began on April 7, saying it is still in its early stages and it is far too soon to determine its effectiveness. The average number of people killed weekly on the roads is 13.

Traffic police say they believe the project, being implemented over 700 kilometers of highways, will deter drivers from committing minor and life-threatening traffic offenses.

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